WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 22, No. 7 | SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990 | November 2011

Pac-Mans and weed-whackers

The politics of budget cuts in Washington's legislative special session

Marissa Luck

Washington state lawmakers are gearing up to cut another $2 billion from the budget in the November 28 special session. Meanwhile, several community organizations (like Washington CAN, POWER, and the Olympia Coalition for a Fair Budget to name a few) have identified several ways the government could create new revenue to dampen the blow of budget cuts. Yet Governor Christine Gregoire has said she "isn't talking revenue now." Why aren't lawmakers focusing on generating revenue in the special session? Here's an guide to understanding their logic.

What makes the session special?

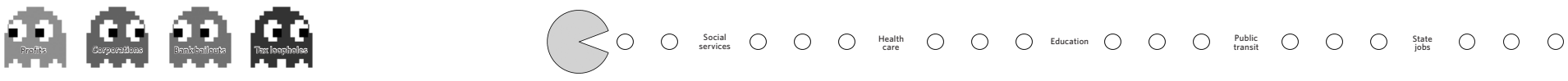
It's all beginning to sound repetitive: poor economy, high unemployment, more budget cuts. So it may not have been surprising that Gregoire called a special session of the Washington state legislature to address yet another budget shortfall with (surprise) even more budget cuts. But there are some things that do make this special session actually, well, special.

Governor Christine Gregoire said legislators need to stop taking a "Pac-Man approach" of cutting bites of budgets here and there; instead they need to consider fully terminating programs.

To start, something is happening in Washington that hasn't occurred in forty years: state spending has decreased for two consecutive biennia, and is set to decline even more. After legislators left Olympia this spring, wiping their hands after the difficult task of cutting $4.6 billion in the 2011-13 budget, they thought they wouldn't be returning until next January. To their dismay, they discovered their original estimates for the economy were entirely too rosy. State unemployment continues to hover around 9% while consumer confidence drags. For a state whose revenue depends primarily on sales tax, this is particularly bad news. The state collected around $1.25 billion less than what legislators expected. These local conditions were compounded by a series of unfortunate factors: the European debt crisis, the stagnating US economy, and the debt ceiling debates in Congress, which will likely reduce federal monetary assistance to states. All of these factors have coalesced to produce our current economic reality, which could be historically unique. Ralph Thomas, spokesperson for the Office of Financial Management (OFM), told me that the situation of revenue deterioration in Washington is simply "unprecedented." Now, with revenue not rising quickly enough to match state spending, Gregoire is asking the legislature to pass a revised budget that would cut $2 billion. (To give you perspective on that number, ending all state support to higher education for one school year would save the state $1.4 billion).

The second special quality of this session is the particular approach lawmakers are taking to cope with unexpected revenue shortfall. To me, when the state is facing a revenue crisis, it seems like

▸ **PAC-MAN,** continued on page 14



Occupy Olympia at Heritage Park

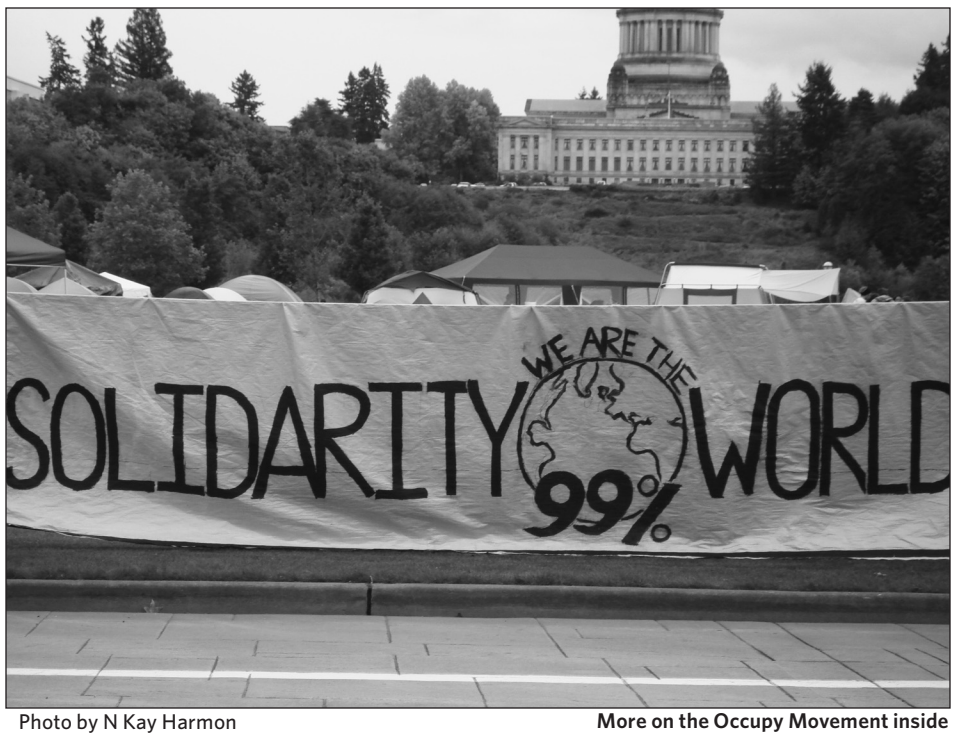


Photo by N Kay Harmon

More on the Occupy Movement inside

The *real* reason you should vote **No on 1183**

Wally Cuddeford

Initiative 1183, if passed, would close every state liquor store in Washington, and would open licensing for liquor sales by private businesses. The "No on 1183" committee has unfortunately been running a confusing, misguided, and at times exaggerated ad campaign against Initiative 1183. Here's the *real* reason you should vote **NO on 1183**.

Initiative 1183 would close every public liquor store in the entire state of Washington, eliminating several hundred state jobs, allowing Costco and other mega-retailers to simply pocket the difference.

The wrong message

The advertisements for "No on 1183" focus almost exclusively on one theme: "Protect our communities." The argument presented is that I-1183 would weaken law enforcement and open the floodgates to liquor access. Many ads feature statements from emergency first-responders, such as the Washington Council of Firefighters, on the dangers of selling alcohol in more places. This message is accompanied with the scare tactic insinuation that, if 1183 passes, thousands of gas stations and mini-marts across the state will sell liquor to minors. (Maybe even *your* kids!)

As for the proliferation of corner store liquor sales, the truth is a bit more ambiguous. It is true that gas stations and

▸ **LIQUOR,** continued on page 2

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Maggie Reardon	Zen Quest

"My optimism is based on something I said before, that I think that people are basically decent. They have common sense. They can be deceived for a while, but when they begin to learn, when the truth begins to make its way through the apertures of disinformation and lies, people do wake up and change." - Howard Zinn

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
November 18
P.O. Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
November 26
(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES
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7.25″ x 4.75″	. . . $125
4.75 x 4.75″	. . . $83
3.0″ x 4.75″	. . . $52
4.0″ x 2.25″	. . . $34
3.5″ x 2.25″	. . . $30
2.25″ x 2.25″	. . . $20

Special microbusiness deal!
4 months for the price of 3
*** Ask for nonprofit rates**

▸ **LIQUOR,** continued from page 1

minimarts have been found to sell to 1-in-4 minors in sting operations. However, the "No" campaign presents an absolutely worst case scenario by exaggerating the number of corner stores that would likely start selling liquor. The number could be one thousand, or it could be zero.

Initiative 1183 forbids any store of less than 10,000 square feet of retail space to sell liquor. This includes mega retailers like Wal-Mart and Costco, along with traditional grocery stores like Safeway, Fred Meyer and QFC, while excluding gas stations and minimarts. I-1183 does, however, include three exceptions for smaller retailers:

• Pre-existing private liquor stores, which currently contract with the state (and charge set prices), may continue to operate,

• New stores may open where a state liquor store is forced to close,

• And stores which aren't located in the "trade area" of a licensed, 10,000 square foot retailer. (To be clear, a 10,000 square foot retailer is allowed to stomp out an existing small retailer, even though a small retailer cannot open in the large retailer's "trade area." The "No" campaign does not point this out in their ads.)

Where this argument that 1183 would open up liquor sales in hundreds of corner stores and minimarts does bear some consideration is in the contrast between urban and rural. In places like Olympia, Seattle and Tacoma, I-1183 might actually *decrease* the number of small private retailers selling liquor, by putting up barriers for licensing which currently licensed private liquor stores do not face. Getting a small retailer license could become very difficult, as the liquor business becomes monopolized by an overlapping mega-retailer "trade area" that spans the I-5 corridor. (In fact, liquor might become significantly less accessible to *anyone* in the "trade area" of a Costco, since one has to be a paid member to even shop there.)

However, much of Washington is very rural. This includes most everything east of the Cascades, communities along the Cascades themselves, much of the Olympic Peninsula, and southwest Washington. Rural communities, which may not have any mega-retailer (or may have only one grocery store which could opt out of selling liquor), could be opened up to liquor sales at the corner store. Even Spokane, the second largest city in Washington, could find itself within reach of liquor sales at gas stations and minimarts, due to its proximity to one-stoplight towns such as Airway Heights.

However, all of this still relies on the wrong message: "Protect our communities." In other words, strong law enforcement. The "Yes" campaign can play that game as well, airing ads featuring several police and firefighter representatives giving their endorsements to I-1183. The discussion also gets sidetracked into an unnecessary debate over how many minimarts and gas stations may or may not start selling liquor – which in this case is beside the point. Finally, the scare-tactic approach assumes the campaign needs to manipulate voters in order to gain their support, when in fact, the situation is very simple, and easily explained.

Here's a better reason

Initiative 1183 isn't about public safety, and it isn't about "opening the floodgates" for liquor. Initiative 1183 is a naked attempt by Costco to supplant public-run liquor stores. I-1183 would close every public liquor store in the entire state of Washington, replacing all those state jobs with lesser-paying, and much fewer in number, retail jobs, allowing Costco and other mega-retailers to simply pocket the difference. That's all I-1183 is about, that's the only reason Costco is funding it, that's the topic Costco's "Yes" campaign *won't ever* discuss, and that's the only reason you *need* to vote **"No" on 1183.**

What's frustrating is that the "No" campaign only occasionally points out corporate influence, and never once broaches the subject of attacks on labor and rising unemployment – even though those are the most accessible (and honest) platforms against 1183. Instead, it's pleas for tougher law enforcement.

If I could hazard a guess (which I will qualify in a moment), I'd say the "No" campaign is afraid of potentially alienating people by talking about "public sector" labor. Of course, the idea that discussing public-sector labor is somehow "alienating" is a myth, propagated by corporate-owned media outlets, which either entertain ideological attacks on labor rights, or in the case of extremist outlets such as Fox News, actively fan flames of reactionary anti-union politics. Despite these outlets' attempts to stigmatize and diminish the cause of labor, the political reality in this country reflects far more support for labor – both "public sector" and "private sector" – than is reflected through this country's dominant media. Especially in left-leaning Washington state, there's every reason to think a straight-up "Yes to labor – No on 1183" campaign would succeed, without the scare tactics.

Political cogency

The "Yes" campaign for I-1183 has been full of their own deceptions, and I will address that in a moment. The reason I shine the light so brightly on the follies of the sponsored "No" campaign is because this is a prime example of a deeper political question.

In 2005, Cindy Sheehan became the face of the anti-war movement, after her month-long protest outside of George Bush's ranch in Texas. As such, she was subjected to an especially vitriolic attack by the right-wing media. Two years later, some misguided anti-war organizers thought it prudent to distance their efforts from her, because her image had been slandered so much, making her "too divisive." Having cast Sheehan aside, these organizers were rallying around new "faces" of the movement (like Ehren Watada), in an attempt to put a fresh spin on anti-war politics. Of course, these new "faces" themselves would then be subjected to vitriolic attacks by right-wing media, and then also, in these organizers' eyes, would warrant exclusion.

Our economic woes are the result of bank bailouts and tax breaks to millionaires, not state liquor stores. The way to increase state revenue is to *raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy*, not to further privatize.

The mistake these organizers made was twofold: First, they capitulated to right-wing attacks, rather than challenging distorted portrayals. But, of more relevance to the I-1183 discussion, they tried appealing to the wrong people. Those organizers tried appealing to the right-leaning, Fox News watching crowd, trying to convince them the anti-war movement was just as patriotic and flag-waving as they. Meanwhile, they overlooked their actual base of support – actual critics of the war – either because their support was taken for granted, or because they weren't considered to be influential enough to be important. This approach generally fails, both because it alienates the people who should be supporting the movement and because it allows the terms of the discussion to be dictated, in every way, by the opposition.

With the ad campaigns on Initiative 1183, it gets worse. While the "No" campaign has been focusing on "Protect our communities," the "Yes" campaign, which has been running their own misleading and exaggerated ad campaign, has been trying to co-opt the rhetoric of the growing anti-austerity movement, which should be firmly against I-1183. For instance, the "Yes" campaign claims that state liquor stores constitute wasteful state spending during an era of budget cuts. (In fact, state liquor stores pay for themselves and generate revenue. Besides, our economic woes are the result of bank bailouts and tax breaks to millionaires, not because of small-scale state spending.) The "Yes" campaign claims that I-1183 adds new revenue to the state. (Very misleading – It replaces one revenue stream with another: new license fees. Nobody can say for sure if this would mean more or less state revenue unless I-1183 is implemented, at which point it can't be undone. The way to increase state revenue is to *raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy*, not to further privatize. Also, as usually happens, those licensing fees would likely be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices, once again allowing Costco to simply pocket the difference.) And finally, none of these attempts to co-opt *our* struggles for their corporate agenda has stopped them from playing the "strong law enforcement" angle as well, with more misleading ads.

The "Yes" campaign has to lie, because the truth is not on their side. They have to co-opt a popular message, because few would support their plan on its face. And since they have more money on their side (Costco has spent a record $22.5 million on ads supporting this initiative), they can get away with lying, but only if we allow ourselves to get fooled. Rather than turning our backs on the politics which make us strong, in exchange for a short-term political gain, we should be uniting under those politics. We should be connecting all the different struggles we face, because they are all undeniably connected.

No to attacks on labor! No to privatization! No to corporate greed! **No on 1138!**

The 2nd Olympia Busker Parade

Tuesday, Nov. 1 - 5pm-8pm
From: Occupied Heritage Park
To: 4th Avenue City Hall

Citizens in Violation of Illegal Laws (CIVIL)

This summer many of us marched in the first ever Olympia Busking Parade. The march was a wild success, with 75-100 musicians marching through the streets and making noise to protest the city of Olympia's harassment of buskers in particular and the houseless and disenfranchised in general, as well as the push towards gentrification by the City Council and the Olympia Downtown Association. At City Hall we were greeted by an equally baffled and condescending City Council, who assured us that our voices were heard and that reforms to the anti-busking laws were imminent.

Now, months later, the city council announces that **no changes will be made to the anti-busking laws.** To many of us this comes as no surprise. We have long ago lost any illusions about the legitimacy of those that claim to represent us, on a local as well as national level.

Henceforth, we claim ourselves as our own representatives, and declare all anti-busking laws null and void. We encourage everyone to busk wherever and whenever they please in Olympia. If the police harass you, contact us, and we will deploy our newly formed Solidarity Network to make sure you do not stand alone.

We declare the second of what will be many future Busker Parades. We will reclaim 4th ave, singing and dancing for as long as we damn well please. Then we will march to City Hall to tell them that we have declared their law irrelevant.

Occupy All Streets!

UPDATE

Local residents file appeal to proposed 7-Eleven at Harrison and Division

An outside developer is attempting to build a 7-Eleven convenience store in the now-vacant lot at the corner of Harrison and Division, on Olympia's west side. Over 1,000 neighbors, Olympia residents, businesses and community associations have gone on record opposing this move. However, on Oct. 17, City of Olympia Hearing Examiner Thomas Bjorgen approved the 7-Eleven anyway.

When addressing concerns of community members, Kroydan Chalem, associate planner for the City of Olympia, neglected to mention that people in opposition to this development could ask the Hearing Examiner for reconsideration - but only within 10 days of his decision.

A new city law increased the Land Use Review Fees to a minimum $700 -- That's a $200 fee, and $500 for the Hearing Examiner's time. Plus, the appellants must pay more for the Examiner's time, at an undisclosed rate, if the $500 does not cover it. All so that the Hearing Examiner can review his own decision.

The Hearing Examiner has until Nov. 17 to announce a decision. The group has 21 days after that to file an appeal to Superior Court. So far, $1,875 has been pledged for a possible appeal.

To get involved, contact Dan Leahy at 360-402-0411, or for more information and updates, visit stop7eleven.wordpress.com.

Photos from Olympia ConsentFest

MY SHORT SKIRT has NOTHING to do WITH YOU.
MY DRESS is not A YES.
CONSENT is Sexy
I AM A WOMAN
THE WALK OF NO SHAME
IMPLIED CONSENT Does not apply to women who are passed out
NOT YOUR SLUT
MAKE LOVE NOT VICTIMS
TESC IGNORES RAPE
FIRE ART AND ANDREA
Things That Cause Rape:
Flirting
The outfit I'm wearing
Drinking too much
Rapists

Photos from WIP News Service

OPD cites local resident for expressing political view

On Friday afternoon, October 14, Sky Cosby of Last Word Books was ticketed by the OPD. His crime? Honking in support of Planned Parenthood. The following is a brief interview.

Where were you and what had you done right before the cop ticketed you?

I had just left Last Word Books to pick up my children from Lincoln Elementary. I was on Adams when I came to the intersection at Legion Way where Planned Parenthood supporters and protesters often congregate. It was even more chaotic than usual, with vehicles stopped on Legion because pedestrians, protesters and supporters of Planned Parenthood, were crossing the streets every which way, both in and out of crosswalks. There were two patrol cars present, one in the parking lot and one on the side of the street. At least two officers were present at the intersection engaged in some sort of dialogue with the supporters.

When I entered the intersection I tapped on my horn twice, both to announce my presence and intention as well as to show my support for Planned Parenthood. When I exited the intersection I waved at the supporters.

Did you notice if other cars were honking at this time?

Yes, I remember two other cars honked their horns and waved at the anti-Planned Parenthood protesters across the street.

After that, a police officer pulled you over?

He pulled me over on Jefferson between 13th and 14th, almost a ¼ mile from the intersection. By this time I had completely forgotten the incident and was focused on getting up to Lincoln to pick up my kids. I saw the lights in the rear-view mirror and pulled over.

How did he treat you?

Brusquely and snidely, like he was overly satisfied with his own power trip. Overall Officer Chuck Gassett was curt, polite, and efficient, as I'm sure he was eager to go ruin some other law-abiding citizen's day.

He approached my window and, as I rolled it down, he asked, "What's your emergency?" I wasn't quick enough to say, "Right-wing douchebags are taking over our country!" Instead I replied, "I didn't realize I was speeding." He said, "You weren't speeding, what's your emergency, what's your emergency." It was then I realized it was for honking my horn.

I politely jumped through the rest of his gestapo-esque hoops hoping to pick up my children on time. I was still late.

What did he claim was your violation?

I was ticketed $124.00 for "improper use of a horn in a non-emergency setting" and another $124.00 for failing to update my address with the Department of Licensing.

Honking in support of a political sign is, and should continue to be, protected under freedom of speech.

What actions are you planning to take?

I have filed a complaint against Chuck Gassett for exercising his own political bias while on the job. I have also submitted records requests regarding other complaints against Officer Gassett to possibly show a pattern of institutionalized oppression and discrimination in relation to his treatment of other Olympia residents, as well as a request regarding the total number and frequency of tickets given out for similar violations.

Really, this is a larger topic. On October 9th, the Seattle Police Department began handing out tickets to folks who honked in support of Occupy Seattle. This is not a localized trend. I therefore argue that this occurrence was more of a mandate from on high, from somewhere up the chain of command. Some rich fat white guy in an expensive chair told all the cops to go out and ticket leftists and radicals for whatever they possibly can, due to the current political and economic stage. I was targeted for my perceived political beliefs, by an agent of an increasingly corrupt Corporate State which is becoming more and more oligarchic with the passage of each day. This was not about an infraction at all, this is about the current political climate and the fact that everyone, including the Police Department, is flat-broke.

Honking in support of a political sign is, and should continue to be, protected under our freedom of speech rights. It is also my opinion that in this age of heightened security and international terrorism, when the right hand of our government is supposedly in communication with the left (really I think they're just jerking each other off), the system should operate quite a bit better than it does. I changed my address with another federal government organization you may have heard of – *The United States Postal Service* – over two months ago. Why they can't press the friggin' arrow key and hit enter and have their stupid computer systems pick the most recent address for their records is completely beyond me.

I am perfectly willing to pay $124.00 for the address change portion of my ticket in exchange for standing in front of a judge and speaking my piece. Although I am also of half a mind to refuse to pay anything at all and demand that they put me in jail for a few days and feed me, at the expense of the state (read this time only: we, the people). But they'd of course just send me to collections and further mar my legal, economic, capitalist record.

How can people in the community best support you?

I guess just by talking amongst themselves and being aware of the ridiculous, Draconian laws and system under which we live. Given the Washington State Supreme Court decision just a few days ago, I would imagine that at least the horn portion of my ticket will just be dropped.

So honk in support of Planned Parenthood! Honk in support of Occupy Olympia! Be nice to your neighbors, don't shop at corporations, participate in local government and local economics. Feed your children locally-sourced, healthy foods so that they can grow up one day to challenge and topple the power structures that hold us all down and subvert this dominant paradigm.

Beyond that, I suppose everyone could read more books. That might help me pay my fines or tickets for rebellious infractions in the future.

State Supreme Court overturns honking law in Snohomish County

In the last week of October, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that Snohomish County's noise ordinance regarding honking was "overbroad," and threw out the 2006 honking conviction of Helen Immelt of Snohomish. In the opinion, Justice Debra L. Stephens wrote, "[The ordinance] prohibited legitimate expressions of speech... [in not allowing] horn-honking for any purpose other than public safety, unless it is a 'sound originating from officially sanctioned parades and other public events.' Thus, we reject the Court of Appeals' conclusion that horn honking is a type of conduct that does not involve speech. Horn honking does constitute protected speech in many instances, regardless of whether it would constitute protected speech in Immelt's particular case."

One of the examples of protected speech given by Justice Stephens was "a motorist who honks a horn in support of an individual picketing on a street corner."

Rise of the Planet of the People

Occupy Wall Street revitalizes anti-corporate movement

Zoltán Grossman

I first heard about Occupy Wall Street in August, when I visited my former home of Madison, Wisconsin. Shortly after protesting in the Wisconsin State Capitol rotunda against 13% pay cuts for state workers, and being impressed with the energy and creativity of the protesters, I attended the Democracy Convention nearby. Some of the speakers at the Convention were inspiring, but others were repeating the same vague rhetoric and tactics I've heard for many decades.

As I was doodling, a young speaker mentioned that Wall Street would be occupied starting September 17 (Constitution Day), and I sat bolt upright. It took only about two seconds to understand the rationale of Occupy Wall Street (OWS), so most Americans would be able to grasp its message without complex explanations. Americans have historically put on great marches and uprisings, but have rarely stayed in one place to make their demands. OWS seemed to draw from the examples of past occupations in Manila, Beijing, Belgrade, Kiev and Cairo.

Above all, spreading occupations around the country and world would mobilize our home communities, rather than expecting us to spend time and money to travel to (and be repressed in) a central place. We could educate our own local towns and cities, and they could show support by joining and bringing food and supplies. So far, I have been just as impressed by the Occupy movement back in my current home of Olympia, Washington, as I have been of the mass protests back home in Wisconsin.

The 10-Year Delay

OWS is the natural follow-up to the Seattle WTO protests, but this follow-up has been delayed for a decade. If we remember back to the WTO protests in 1999, and the clashes at global free-trade summits in 2000-01, we can recall that the anti-corporate movement was reaching a critical point. Summit-hopping had reached its limits, because only younger people could run from police, and the police were learning how to brutalize enough protesters to prevent a repeat of the Seattle victory. The movement was starting to talk about spreading the movement by bringing it to their hometowns.

Then 9/11 happened, followed by the US wars on Afghanistan and Iraq, and the war on civil liberties. Most activist and community organizers drew back from directly fighting corporations in order to fight the State that wages war for the corporations. Now we are back to taking on the banks and oil companies that are at the root of the crisis. What we are now seeing is an anti-corporate movement on almost exactly a 10-year delay.

The rebellions of 2011 are not merely a response to the recession of 2008, because they focus on a lack of true democracy, which will still be our main problem after the economy recovers. (Climate change and prisons, for example, will still be there even if the recession ends and the Tea Party is defeated.) The current uprisings should have happened—and may have happened in some form—in 2002 or 2003, if it weren't for 9/11 and Iraq.

Waiting out the movement

Now the political leadership wants to wait out OWS, anticipating that it may split or discredit itself, be whittled away by police raids, or that the oncoming winter will drive the protesters away. Much more likely is that police raids (like the brutal attack in Oakland) will draw in more public support for OWS, and that cold temperatures will convince protesters to find warmer buildings to sleep in, such as banks and Capitol rotundas.

Occupy Wall Street is the natural follow-up to the Seattle WTO protests, but this follow-up has been delayed for a decade.

Here in Olympia, the legislative special session to cut the state budget begins on November 28. With enough people inside the Capitol, and enough supporters outside singing and resisting, the legislators may have to find another place to meet. (Perhaps they would have to apply for a permit to meet, and Occupy Olympia could set conditions for issuing a permit. If the people are exercising sovereignty, we can do it in creative ways that turn the authority around.) Like in Madison, colleges and high schools could have their own feeder marches (walking or biking) to the central protest site.

The Occupy camps have an unprecedented opportunity to get out into their communities, and connect with existing grievances and issues in the neighborhoods and workplaces (such as the annual Oct. 22 rallies against police brutality). In our area, we have seen major strikes by Tacoma teachers and Longview longshore workers. We can also connect with the concerns of people outside the labor movement, including Iraq/Afghanistan veterans who have been abandoned by the military, Indigenous peoples who are trying to "unoccupy" their nations, and nonpolitical single moms just trying to feed their kids and keep them safe.

The Occupy camps are also an ideal venue for continuous teach-ins, for the participants to share knowledge and skills, and draw lessons from social movements in other times and places. It sucks that the only way to get an education in this country is to pay huge amounts of money. In the Occupy movement, different generations can share ideas on effective tactics and strategies, rather than just repeating stale and predictable slogans from the past. Younger folks can educate older folks about how strategies from the 1960s or 1980s may not be as effective in the age of Facebook, Twitter and hip hop. Older folks can tell younger folks about past strategies that have been effective or ineffective, and predictable pitfalls to avoid.

Pitfalls

The first pitfall is the electoral morasse. With an election year coming up, there will be intense pressure from Democrats to put down the protest signs and pick up the ballot box. Historically, this has been the worst possible choice to maintain momentum--holding the protest signs high is the best way to influence elections. Only pressure from the streets has secured real reforms, and both Republicans and Democrats have to be pressured to move on anything. The Environmental Protection Agency was established under the Nixon Administration, not because Nixon loved nature, but because of a powerful and growing Earth Day movement. In Wisconsin this year, the Democratic establishment channeled the massive protests into the Recall campaign, which so far has failed to wrestle state government from the Republicans. Whenever anyone asks me about Wisconsin now, they ask "How is the Recall going?", rather than, "How is the movement going?," even though political campaigns are just part of the story.

Elections are one of many available tactics--only one tool in the toolbox--not a strategy. Very few OWS supporters are going to actively work for Obama in 2012, but some may become volunteers for Senate or House races, and some of those local races may actually make a difference. But we cannot put all our eggs in one basket, and have to use the full range of tactics, including direct action, strikes, and cultural work. Together, we can think up newer, creative tactics and strategies that are not predictable, and therefore not as easy for the State to co-opt or repress.

The second pitfall is reliance on the Internet. The 2011 rebellions have drawn in youth around the world through the use of Facebook, Twitter, etc. But social network technologies tend to reach a certain ceiling, leaving out many older and working-class people that either do not have a computer or are not technically savvy. The new social media also tend to ignore the listservs of organizations, campuses, etc. that only a few years ago were the main mobilizing forums on the Internet.

It is easy to look at all the hits on your Facebook group page, and think you have a vibrant and thriving movement, but it generally will not move beyond a limited demographic circle. A Facebook group page (or listserv) is not a substitute for face-to-face community organizing. Posting on a blog is not a substitute for postering in laundromats, bowling alleys and barbershops, or posting PSAs on local radio stations.

The third pitfall is the narrowing of the movement's culture and language, not through a conscious policy, but inadvertently. When they encounter "insider" language, people who are not in the "in-group" end up feeling excluded from the movement, and will probably never tell you why they left. Sometimes the in-group is defined by class, race or age (or a combination), and sometimes by a more subtle use of "insider" terms that are not shared by people who are still part of the mainstream culture. To be successful, this movement needs to include people who watch TV and shop at big-box stores.

For example, at OWS general assemblies, "twinkling" (shaking all fingers in the air) is a sign of approval. Although "twinkling" was originally intended to be inclusive (for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) it can end up excluding people who are not culturally clued into this movement "language." To put it another way, 99% of Americans clap when they approve of something, and they should not be meant to feel they are breaking the rules. If the OWS movement is to be truly intergenerational, and to bridge class and racial barriers, we need to be conscious of the tone we set. Occupy Olympia has set an inclusive tone, and welcomes people from all walks of life to its Heritage Park site, which includes an Elders' Circle tent.

Activism and organizing

Activism and organizing are not the same thing. Activism is the action taken by the people who are already convinced, but activists will become isolated if they fail to enlarge the movement through organizing. Organizing is the art of convincing the unconvinced, but organizers will have little effect if they do not offer effective ways to make an impact through activism. A balance of organizing and activism can help avoid both social isolation and the political/legal "hoops" we are always made to jump through.

Activism is a way to set our own agenda, instead of simply responding to crises. Organizing is about attracting new people into the movement to keep it alive and kicking.

For the first time in my life, there is a movement in the United States that has a real potential to break through old, naïve illusions, and strike that balance between depth and breadth. It may be for the capitalist bloc what the Prague Spring and Polish Solidarity eventually became for the Soviet Bloc. The Occupy movement may be giving us one of our first glimpses of a future world.

Dr. Zoltán Grossman is a professor at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and a longtime antiwar and social justice organizer. His website is at http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz and can be reached at grossmaz@evergreen.edu He is a civilian Member of the Board of G.I. Voice, an antiwar veterans group that runs the Coffee Strong resource center for soldiers outside Fort Lewis: http://www.coffeestrong.org.

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Occupy Everywhere

The worldwide winter

Charles Richardson

Recently there has been a lot of talk—primarily on sources other than mainstream media—about an occupation movement taking place here in America as well as around the world. I wish to convey to you my observations of this movement, starting from its supposed origins to what I think it stands for right now.

Adbusters, a Canadian anti-consumerist magazine describing themselves as "a global network of artists, activists, writers, pranksters, students, educators and entrepreneurs who want to advance the new social activist movement of the information age," first put out the call to action. The organization proposed the idea of copying the "Arab Spring" style of protest where they occupy a location for an indefinite period of time and don't leave until they get what they are demanding. Adbusters wanted to see that type of situation come to the United States with an occupation on Wall Street, a place you could call the economic hub of the world. Except it grew much faster and much farther than even Adbusters intended. Now the occupation movement has spread globally with protests on Wall Street, across the US, and even across the globe.

Anonymous, an internet "hacktivist" also supported this call to action. Anonymous has moved on from their original origins of "4chan"--an Internet forum site some people call "the hell of the internet"--and evolved to hacking websites and eventually protesting on the streets wearing the famous Guy Fawkes mask. It's important to note that Anonymous is not a formal organization, so although a majority of Anonymous might support the movement, there is no "official" declaration of support.

On the day it began, the occupation in New York chose Zuccotti Park, a public-private park a few blocks away from Wall Street. Since then, several other places across the country have spontaneously started their own, including here in Olympia, Washington. I will describe my stay here, and what role I've played in the movement.

I first heard of the occupation movement from a video Anonymous put out, a call to action to occupy Wall Street on Sept. 17. I watched the first days of the protest on the Internet; a Livestream account called Global Revolution was broadcasting what was happening live on the ground in Zuccotti Park. I watched first-hand accounts of police brutality streamed live on the Internet for thousands to see – incidents such as Anthony Bologna, a 30-year veteran of the forcein New York, pepper spraying female peaceful activists directly in the face. The advancements in technology have certainly helped get the word out; if this were happening back before the Internet, revolutions such as this would not have as much power as they do now.

New York has seen a lot of action since they started their protest. As of writing this, they have been occupying Zuccotti Park (or "Freedom Plaza") for over 33 days. Since then, police brutality has certainly helped get the word out about the protest. Protesters were herded onto the Brooklyn Bridge roadway and hundreds of people were arrested, and then mostly released later without charge. New York also took up the cause to join the Postal Workers union that was rallying outside of the post office to keep Saturday service.

If there were only ten people camping in a park in a small town, this would have been ignored entirely. With millions of occupiers in thousands of cities stretching across all seven continents, this cannot be ignored any longer.

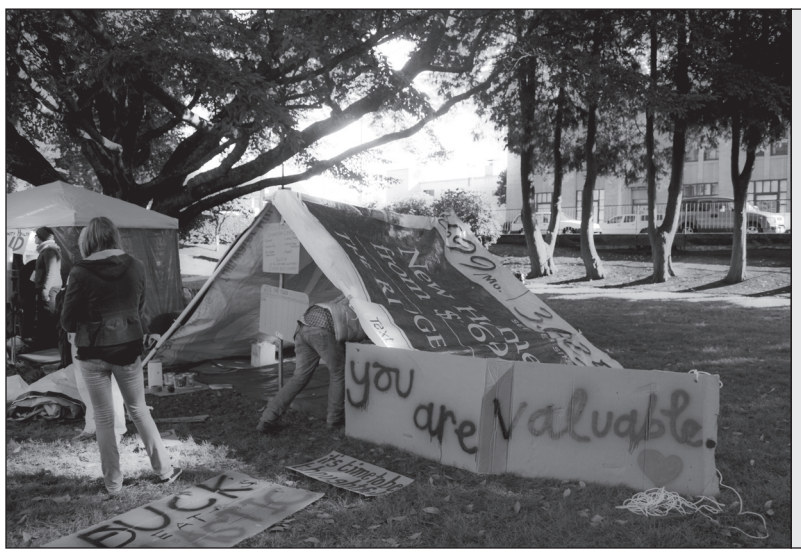
The protest has spread all around the world, and it's bigger there than it is in the United States. Spain saw a huge mass of people on the first day of global action on Oct. 15 with tens of thousands showing up in support. Greece has already been in protest mode over all the austerity cuts, and the global action has motivated them back to action and stronger than ever. Now public workers in Greece are refusing to work, with police officers and fire fighters joining the protesters. Trash collectors are also protesting, with trash piling up on the streets for over 17 days now. There are even people in Antarctica flashing a sign in solidarity.

What I have witnessed at Occupy Olympia is a messy process. Occupations have what they call a "General Assembly" (GA) where protesters can raise their concerns to the main body of the group. This is a true form of direct democracy. Of course setting this type of thing up spontaneously can be chaotic.

When contrasting Olympia to many other occupation protests there is a huge benefit to our protest: accommodations from the state. When we relocated to Heritage Park, we were told we could erect all the structures we want, we would have 24/7 bathrooms, and 24/7 electricity, and so far the state has held their promise. As compared to Seattle, where they needed a permit to get a few portable toilets, they can't erect structures, they have no guarantee of cover, and they are not allowed to sleep.

As time has gone on I have noticed more organization and more actions taking place. There are people arriving in Olympia from other cities such as Seattle and Tacoma and even as far reaching as the state of California.

I joined the protest because I was tired of wasting my time buying into this culture that has been fed to me by all the media I digest on a daily basis. I always knew there was something wrong with this world. I thought, enough was enough, it's time for change – not the "change" that's a campaign slogan being fed from a corporate puppet, but *real* change. I attended the first general assembly in Sylvester Park on Oct. 1st. At that point it was damn invisible with only over a dozen in attendance. Then, on Oct. 7 the occupation exploded to about 50 people at the general assembly. Before you know it, on Oct. 15 we grew in size, and the day after moved to Heritage Park with roughly over 75 people.



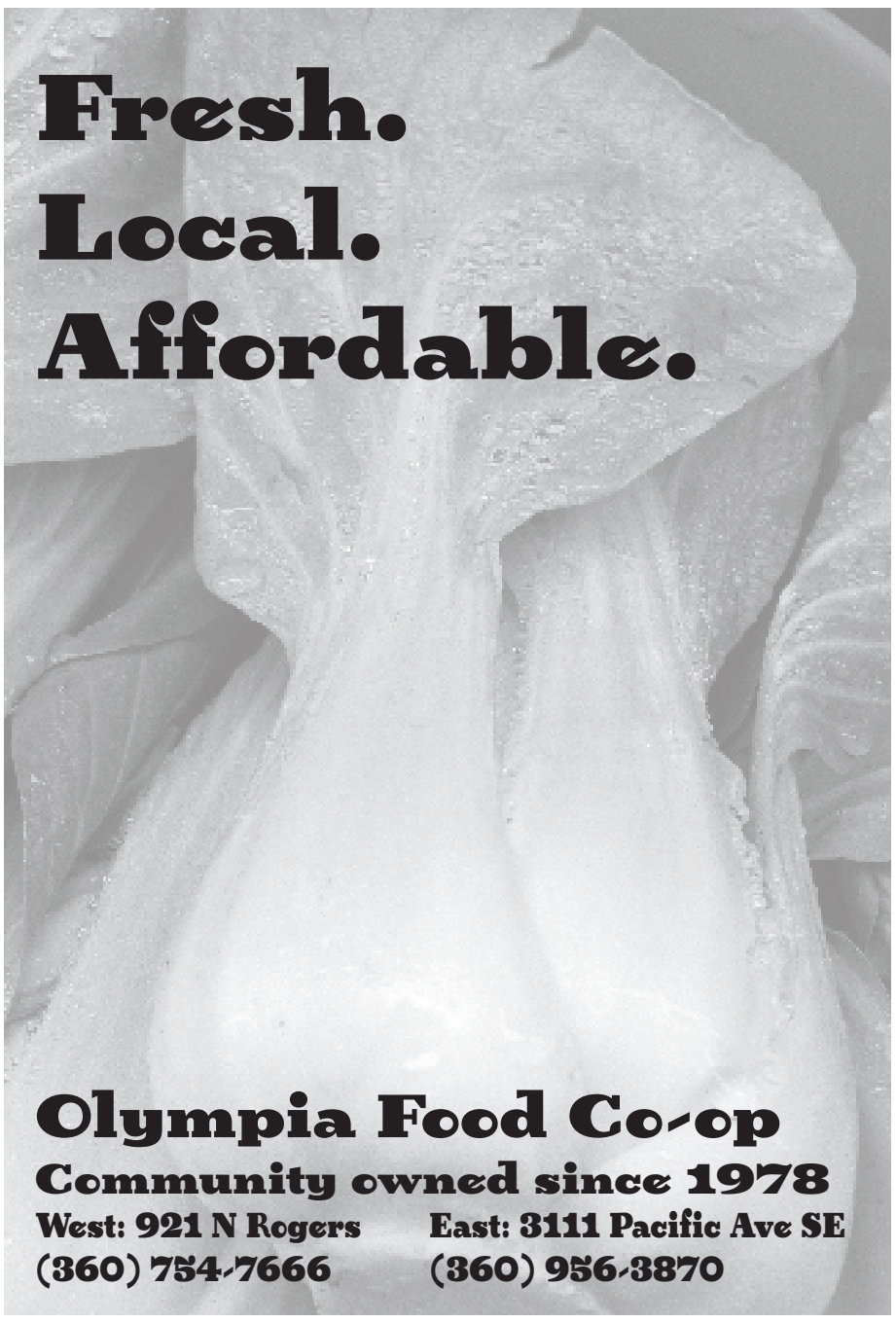
Below left: Olympia street medics offer free assistance to people at Occupy Olympia in Heritage Park. (Photo by Wendy Tanowitz) Right: Occupy Olympia, during its stay in Sylvester Park. (Photo by Evan Holm)

As far as my contributions go, I work with other members of the media committee and stay up all hours of the night. I help update the website, stream live video, film marches, create fliers and other graphics, and a lot of other stuff that helps people get the word out.

I had been reluctant to join because I have one fear: that this movement will be co-opted into the two party system. Unions, liberal websites such as MoveOn.org have put their support behind the whole occupy movement, and I've been worried that this liberal support would transform the movement into something it is not. This movement is meant to be a non-partisan approach at direct democracy with each site establishing their own specific demands. Things such as removing corporate personhood, and removing the money out of politics, are the primary concerns of this movement.

If there is one fear that I have, it's that the protest will not be effective enough. That the state will overpower the people and we will face a crisis where we will always be ruled over and unrepresented. However, part of me knows that will not work. When things get bad enough, the people will overpower the state.

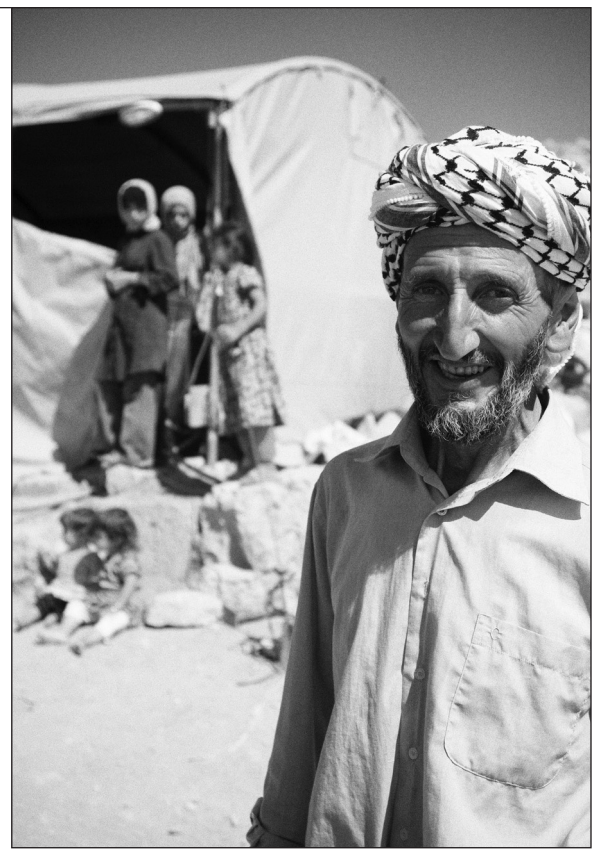
This protest is really effective but only from the solidarity that has been shown. If there were only ten people camping out in a park in a small town, this would have been ignored entirely. With millions of occupiers in thousands of cities stretching across all seven continents, this cannot be ignored any longer.



Working on the Sabbath

The language of labor in building a new society

Samuel Thrope



On the Sabbath I go to work. This work is nothing like the work I do during the week. During the week I spend my time alone: reading, writing, correcting papers, etc. On the Sabbath, I dig, shovel, plant, sow and reap. I build, hammer, carry, prune, and mend. I work outside, with others, in every season. This is work I do with Ta'ayush, a grassroots movement of Jews and Palestinians struggling for justice and equality in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Most of the Israeli activists in Ta'ayush are stalwart secularists for whom the Sabbath is the weekend, but certainly not a day of rest ordained by the law. For me, a person who grew up loving and observing the Sabbath, the day has lost none of its significance. I can't help feeling that when I violate the Sabbath I am somehow bringing the law to its real fulfillment. There is a higher justice at stake, the ethical imperative underlying and infusing the Torah's explicit commands. In this inverted time, when Judaism is used by some Israelis as the handmaid of nationalism, racism and theft, the true ethical imperative demands violation of the law. I am most a Jew when I put the welfare of others ahead of the Jewish Sabbath, when I say that my work is observing the Sabbath in its deepest sense.

The people with whom I share this perspective most are, in a certain way, the settlers in the occupied territories. On any given week they too violate the Sabbath in the name of a higher cause. When they carry weapons, take pictures, throw stones and chase farmers off their fields, they are transgressing the Commandments. For the sake of a more powerful imperative – expanding Jewish control of the land and hastening the messianic age – they are obligated to violate the Sabbath. There are, of course, profound and important differences between my perspective and theirs, but what troubles me is the uncanny similarity; its as if we are both looking to the end-time, but from opposite sides of the glass.

Every Saturday, Ta'ayush activists travel from Jerusalem to the hilly region south of the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. This sparsely populated area is home to some of the poorest Palestinians in the occupied territories, many of whom live by raising sheep and goats and subsistence agriculture. It is also home to some of the most violent settlers. Along with attacks and harassment of Palestinian residents by individuals, the settlements are constantly encroaching on Palestinian land.

According to the division of territory outlined in the 1995 Oslo Accords, the area is governed and policed by the Israeli military. However, on the whole, the army does little to respond to settler violence and settlement expansion. Both in following discriminatory laws and by ignoring the laws on the books, the army often effectively serves the settlers' interests.

The ache in my joints and the blisters on my hands at the end of the Sabbath are signs that I am truly making peace, truly living.

In Arabic Ta'ayush means "living together" or "partnership," and that is a good description of the group's activities. Faced with these conditions on the ground, Ta'ayush activists, Jews and Palestinians, work together to non-violently resist the occupation. Since the land and its resources are at the heart of the issue in the South Hebron Hills, much of this resistance takes the form of helping local Palestinian farmers access and demonstrate ownership over their agricultural land. The physical work we do together in the fields, with the flocks, at the wells and among the olive trees is a crucial part of this strategy.

However, not every Sabbath is a working Sabbath. Ta'ayush is a political organization and often the weekly visits to the South Hebron Hills are taken up with more classically political activities, such as joining a non-violent village protest against the expansion of an illegal settlement outpost. Our primary mission is to force with our bodies and attention the upholding of the rule of law. But it is the work which brings me back every week. Laboring, sweating and getting dirty has a reality and immediacy I never feel participating in a demonstration or signing a petition. When I work my body I know that I am changing something in the physical world, even if it is only myself.

A few weeks ago we went to the village of Bir El-Eid. The village, situated on a dusty hillside close to the Jewish settlement of Mitzpeh Yair, had been recently demolished. Since the master zoning plan, a relic of the British Mandate, designates the South Hebron Hills as an agricultural area, it is impossible for Palestinians—though not for settlers— to secure building permits for residential construction. The villagers of Bir El-Eid, therefore, were forced to build without permits. It was on those grounds that the army came that week and destroyed all the structures in the village—six homes and a makeshift toilet.

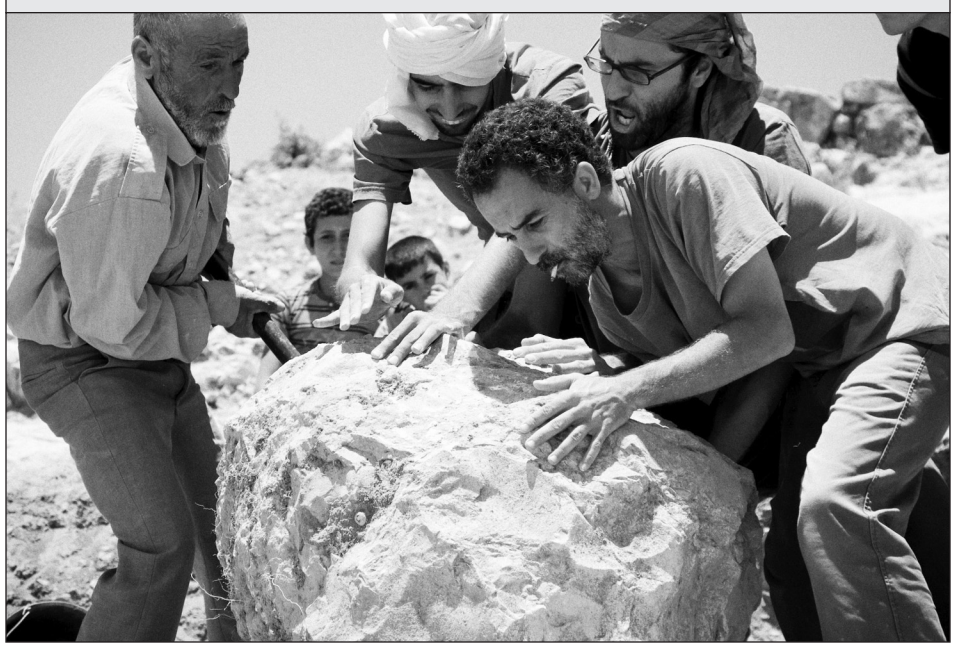
The work that morning was moving rocks. Haji Ismael wanted to use the rubble to rebuild a terrace destroyed in the demolition. Until a group of soldiers forced an end to our work, the twenty Israelis and international volunteers who had come that day rolled, pushed and carried large stones down the slope and then placed one top of the other to form the mortarless outer retaining wall. We filled buckets with dirt, small rocks and debris to pour into the space between the wall and the hillside. Moving the large stones was particularly hard in the hot sun. Three or four of us would gather around a rock as big as a milk-crate and use all our weight to roll it, ardently and strenuously, end over end across the dirt road that cuts through the village.

When I am at work like this, I feel the equality of bodies. I am reduced to the physical form that we share, to breath and blood, muscles and sweat. When I am moving rocks in the sun, I feel joy knowing that we are equal beyond language. Though my Arabic is a mess and Haji Ismael is faltering in his Hebrew, when we are at work I am exactly the same as the Palestinians, and they are the same as me. When we work together, I have a vision of how we can build from these working Sabbaths a new society, grounded on the common denominator of physical labor. I love this work and the idea of a society remade through the habit of labor.

The ache in my joints and the blisters on my hands at the end of the Sabbath are signs that I am truly making peace, truly living. But other times this romance feels shallow and misplaced. For the work itself does not make the difference. We are terrible workers and I have often wondered if the Palestinians ever come back to our labor after we have gone, to undo the damage we have caused in our enthusiasm and inexperience. Working is a symbol of attention, a sign to the Palestinian villagers as well as to the soldiers, settlers and the Israeli government that what happens in the South Hebron Hills matters to Israelis and the world.

Our labor, in this way, is not beyond language. It is language itself, the work communicating concern, interest and presence.

Top right: Eid Hamis Swelem Jahalin - "I was born here, I've spent most of my life here, and I want to stay here." Right: In Jerusalem, Israelis in solidarity with Palestinians hold weekly demonstrations against further housing demolitions. Below: Working together for a peaceful tomorrow, Jews and Palestinians help rebuild a demolished home. (Photos by Ben Gus.)



Some CATs don't play nice

Rachel Corrie Foundation leads new success in the Caterpillar campaign

Marissa Luck

Is a company responsible for the use of its products? For many involved in the Caterpillar campaign, the answer to that question is a definite "yes." Recently, the Rachel Corrie Foundation, along with a national coalition of organizations, successfully stopped a ceremony that would have honored Caterpillar Inc. (CAT) as it received the prestigious Henry C. Turner Prize Award at the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. Although they succeeded in canceling the ceremony, Caterpillar still received the Turner Prize. So was the cancellation of the ceremony merely symbolic? Or was it an international victory for the boycott, divest, and sanctions movement spearheaded by a local organization?

Cats, prizes, and corporate responsibility:

The Turner Prize was established in 2002 by Turner Construction Co., a large, multinational corporation based in the U.S. The prize "highlights an invention, a new methodology or an exceptional display of leadership by a company or individual in the field of construction technology," according to the company's website. The honor comes with international recognition, prestige, and a $25,000 check from the Turner Prize Jury. Past recipients of the award have included various individuals and organizations like Engineers without Borders-USA and US Green Building Council. With these feel-good recipients and emphasis on industry leadership, activists were surprised when the prize jury chose Caterpillar for the award, a company that has gained a bad reputation amongst human-rights circles for its participation in the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

Within the FMS program, Caterpillar sells its equipment to the US government who then gives the equipment to other countries, including Israel. Numerous activists and human-rights organizations, like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have documented the use of Caterpillar equipment by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) to raze Palestinian land, homes, and olive trees. Caterpillar equipment has also been used in the construction of what activists call "The Apartheid Wall": literally a cement and barbed wired wall being built by the government of Israel to separate Israeli settlements from the rest of Palestinian territory. The UN Goldstone Report also noted the use of weaponized Caterpillar bulldozers in Operation Cast Lead, the Israeli attack on Gaza in December 2009. Olympians are perhaps most familiar with Caterpillar's presence in Israel because of the infamous killing of Olympian peace activist Rachel Corrie in 2003. She was killed by the IDF with a D9 bulldozer as she was attempting to prevent a Palestinian home from being demolished.

The use of Caterpillar equipment by the IDF in these ways ignited efforts by various organizations to stop Caterpillar products from supporting the Israeli occupation. Activists have implemented various tactics to this end including interrupting Caterpillar shareholder meetings, conducting petition and letter campaigns, and pressuring universities and trust funds to divest from the company. In May 2010, The Evergreen State College student body voted overwhelmingly to make the campus a CAT-free zone and to divest from any companies benefiting from the Israeli occupation. (Both measures have yet to be realized since the Board of Trustees and college president Les Purce have stated they will not honor the students' vote.)

Despite these sustained efforts from activists, Caterpillar has continued its participation in the FMS program, maintaining that it cannot monitor the use of its equipment abroad. But the parents of Rachel Corrie and founders of RCF believe otherwise. Cindy and Craig Corrie contend that Caterpillar has a "moral and legal responsibility to cease sales of CAT equipment used in a clear pattern of [human-rights] abuses by the Israeli government and military."

"Although CAT is very innovative, which is one of the criteria for the award," said Rochelle Gause, a key RCF organizer of the Turner Prize campaign, "we felt [the Turner Prize Jury] should consider [Caterpillar's] human-rights record."

Accountability and the Turner Prize Campaign

In August 2011, when RCF discovered Caterpillar was slated to receive the Turner Prize presented by the National Building Museum (NBM), the Corries wrote a letter to the museum's executive director, Chase Rynd, explaining why they thought Caterpillar should not receive the award. The Corries wrote that Caterpillar has "long been on notice about the pattern of Israeli human-rights violations committed with its equipment" but that "[their] responses have been inadequate and contrary."

"Although CAT is very innovative, which is one of the criteria for the award," said Rochelle Gause, a key RCF organizer of the Turner Prize campaign, "we felt [the Turner Prize Jury] should consider [Caterpillar's] human-rights record."

RCF created a coalition of organizations including Jewish Voices for Peace, the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace, Code Pink, and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. They launched a campaign of letter writing, calling, and petitioning to pressure the NBM not to award Caterpillar. On September 2, the NBM decided to cancel the award ceremony intended to honor Caterpillar. In a letter to the Corries, Rynd wrote the environment had become "politicized and this will divert attention from innovation in construction technology, which is the purpose of the prize and central to the Museum's mission."

"The museum felt that a public ceremony could be used as an inadvertent platform in an extremely complex, global, political controversy," added Carol Abrams, museum Vice President for Marketing and Communications. Abrams did not directly respond to my questions about the Israeli occupation but instead noted the environment had become politicized "for reasons unrelated to Caterpillar's accomplishments as a technological innovator."

Jim Dungan, a spokesperson for Caterpillar, told the *Washington Post*, "We not only understand, but support the decision to cancel the event itself...We appreciate we've been given the award... and didn't see any reason to have it turned into a political thing."

But the museum had already made "a distinctly political choice by recognizing Caterpillar Inc.," said Cindy Corrie in a press release, "...when people around the world know the corporation to be a symbol of destruction of lives, land, and livelihoods in Israel and Palestine."

After the museum canceled the ceremony, the Corries flew to Washington D.C. to deliver a petition to the NBM asking it to rescind the award completely. The Corries were joined by representatives from the coalition mentioned earlier along with demonstrations and

▸ **CAT,** continued on page 13

Israeli government blamed for surge in racist attacks

Jillian Kestler-D'Amours, The Electronic Intifada

Palestinian community leaders have blamed a refusal by the Israeli government to condemn increased incitement to racial hatred for a recent surge in extremist violence by settlers and other Zionists.

"The problem here is the way the Israeli government is dealing with all the brutal acts of the settlers in the West Bank and now inside the Green Line [Israel as it is recognized internationally]. The Israeli government is doing nothing in order to stop these racist people, and this fact gives this bunch of racists a green light to do anything they want," said Sami Abu Shehadeh, a Jaffa resident and member of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipal council.

"We are really worried. Now these people are attacking holy places; tomorrow they could also hurt people," explained Abu Shehadeh, during a demonstration on Oct. 8 against the recent desecration of Muslim and Christian cemeteries in Jaffa by suspected Jewish-Israeli extremists.

On the eve of Yom Kippur, the Jewish holiday of repentance, suspected Israeli extremists spray-painted "Death to Arabs" and "Price Tag" on headstones in the two Jaffa cemeteries.

"We are having terrorist groups of Jews going inside the Green Line and in the West Bank," Abu Shehadeh added, "and nobody is doing anything [about it], and they are really dangerous people."

Wave of racist attacks throughout Israel

On Oct. 9, the words "Maccabi Haifa [a soccer club] doesn't want Arabs on the team," "Death to Arabs," and "Rabbi Kahane was right" — referring to Meir Kahane, the leader of the ultra right-wing, banned Kach party, who advocated the forcible deportation of all Palestinians — were also found spray-painted on structures in the city of Bat Yam, just south of Tel Aviv.

"The Israeli government is doing nothing in order to stop these racist people, and this fact gives this bunch of racists a green light to do anything they want."

These attacks came less than a week after a mosque in the Bedouin village of Tuba Zangaria, in the Galilee region of northern Israel, was set on fire. The inner walls of the mosque, holy books, and carpets were severely damaged in the attack.

Two suspects have been arrested in relation to the arson attack, including one who is reportedly a student at a religious *yeshiva* in Yitzhar, an ultra-right-wing, illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank. Not far from Nablus, settlers from Yitzhar are known for routinely harassing Palestinians.

"We are here to say that the Israeli government is responsible for what happened to the cemeteries and the mosque in Tuba Zangaria," Jamal Zahalka, a Palestinian member of the Knesset (Israel's parliament), said during the demonstration in Jaffa.

While Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres have denounced the cemetery and mosque attacks, Zahalka said that the government's silence when it comes to racist incitement and discrimination on the part of state-sponsored Jewish religious leaders has led to the recent violence.

He pointed to the group of approximately 50 municipal, government-employed rabbis who last year banned the selling or renting of land and apartments to non-Jews, as an example of racist incitement not condemned by the Netanyahu government.

"They didn't punish the rabbis of Tzfat [Safed]. They didn't punish the rabbis of the settlements. They didn't punish rabbi Ovadia Yosef [the spiritual leader of Shas, a religious, right-wing Israeli political party] when they incited against the Arab citizens in Israel," Zahalka said.

"The distance between racist words and racist deeds is very narrow, is very short. We accuse the Israeli government of inspiring the small racists to do what they do."

"Price tag" policy widespread in West Bank

Israeli settlers normally use the words "price tag" — which were scrawled on the headstones in Jaffa — during attacks on Palestinians and Palestinian property in the occupied West Bank. Price tag violence is now also increasingly used as a way to display disapproval or anger for an Israeli government decision, such as curbing settlement construction.

In early September, for instance, right-wing Israelis vandalized two mosques in the Palestinian towns of Yatma and Qusra, near Nablus, in response to the demolition of three homes in Migron, an "outpost" of an illegal settlement.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that attacks by settlers against Palestinian property in the West Bank rose by 57 percent in the first seven months of 2011, compared with the same period one year earlier ("In West

▸ **ISRAEL,** continued on page 13

Diaries from Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Peace and Clean Water Delegation – Larry Kerschner, Jody and Douglas Mackey – departed SeaTac International Airport on September 3 headed to Kabul, and on to Bamiyan, Afghanistan. They carried with them the well wishes of many, many friends and supporters.

They spent a week in Kabul working with the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) and with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, meeting with representatives of many points of view. Next, they headed on to the Bamiyan Province to assist with bio-sand water filter training and construction in the village of Paytob Loughman. These two weeks in Bamiyan included meetings with the Afghan people and a celebration of the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21. These are entries from their journals.

Kites in Kabul

Douglas Mackey - September 6

I was alone in the DACAAR courtyard. A kite was flying above the building next door - stopped me in my tracks. Only a few people were out in adjacent yards.

On crutches, I had to move slowly with a briefcase across my back. I wanted to hurry but could not. I saw another kite. Slowly I moved into the open lawn and now could see half the sky. Nine kites. A distinctive diamond at the tip of each diamond-shaped kite said something about those below - and I would never know.

The women and each of their toddlers slowed down. A couple of children arm-in-arm pointed skyward.

Azeem joined me quietly with a smile. Friday is the day to see the kites; there is a part of Kabul where they have their, . . . fights. He looked for a gentler word perhaps - we'd been talking earlier in the day about peace. He'd stayed late to finish up a status report to UNICEF.

We parted ways for the day in the street of Kabul. He headed toward the dusky shade of buildings and cars; I stopped at the corner of the guest house.

The children still watched the sky. All of us connected by string and the wind.

Our First Week In Kabul

Jody Mackey - September 5-13

Do I begin with stories of hope or hardship? Let's talk of the harder realities first and save the sweetness for last.

Expressions of despair abound on the streets of Kabul. Amidst the rubble and sewage on most streets, raggedy children rush up to us sweetly hoping for money. The Internally Displaced Person's camp of mud and dung and burlap is back-lit by expensive new apartments on the far side of the street.

Taj Mohammad, a truck driver who invites us to tea while the kites fly overhead, shows us his old bullet wounds that hurt all the time and says, "If the U.S. pulls out soon Afghanistan will be a 'field of blood.'" His job sometimes takes him to Kandahar where he is 100% certain someone will be killed on each journey and also certain that it is the only job available to him.

The chai seller stands with the myriad of boys eager to be with us. Hakim asks him if he's in school. No, this is his job. Hakim tells him he knows what will happen, "You'll create a little restaurant right here." Young chai'ster says it wouldn't be allowed, but he's smiling. Then we walk down the hill overlooking the infamous Olympic stadium known for public executions that is now a field of green before the dusty expanse of Kabul.

We're hearing that city folk want the U.S. to stay and the country folk want us out. Conditions are degrading quickly though so even more people are afraid of us leaving. The road to Bamiyan is now considered to be as dangerous as the road to Kandahar. Daily, we hear of kidnappings and murder. A previous delegate who was kidnapped in Iraq, and survived by a ransom, researched and found the difference between Iraq and Afghanistan is that almost no one survives an abduction here. It's to increase fear and control, not to make money with the kidnapping. It appears the "Talib" make money by taking bribes from our military and other large organizations that want to move around in safety. We had talks on the difference between bribes and extortion, and which to pay. (Extortion was the money to get regular work done, bribes were to curry favors.)

Two years ago President Karzai met to detail a restorative justice plan but instead passed full immunity for all past and future Afghan war crimes – an amnesty law. The US State department simply stated they "were concerned."

When most Afghans speak of justice it's in a vengeful way. Take the perpetrators to trial and then kill them. So the people of Afghanistan know that even these murders happening this very day will never see justice.

While I believe in a very different form of justice I wonder - how do people heal and rid themselves of anger and despair without any type of process. The amnesty law obliterated the traditional methods of restoration and replaced it with emptiness.

Do you know most embassy workers never leave the compound except to board the plane for home? How do you make good decisions for the people of Afghanistan when you live behind those walls? And, what a loss, to miss out on these beautiful people.

It's so quiet when the power goes out. The ever-present fans slow, the light shifts, and I notice the windows and the flash of a plane overhead. Less than 20% of Kabul has electricity. We're the lucky ones. We only lose it a couple of times a day, usually for a few minutes each – more reliable than I expected. We hear and feel explosions in the distance. During the daytime, some of those are construction sounds but in the middle of the night Larry says they sound like howitzers. If you live in Thurston County they would remind you of Fort Lewis' cannon fire, and I bet they shake us dozens of times each hour.

I'm living in this city that was once known as the Paris of the Middle East. A city in which 98% of the buildings were bombed in the last 30 years. Oh, and the best word I've heard to describe the traffic is "insane." Imagine no street lines, no traffic lights, and almost no road repairs for decades. Douglas and I once counted eleven cars across which narrowed to four in half a block, and our cabby barely slowed down. Imagine those 11 lanes with an ancient firewood cart pulled by two old men and another car driving the wrong direction! I have great respect for Kabuli drivers and it is always a thrilling part of our day.

Do you know most embassy workers never leave the compound except to board the plane for home? How do you make good decisions for the people of Afghanistan when you live behind those walls? And, what a loss, to miss out on these beautiful people. For I am also in the presence of such grace.

Hakim and Mohammad Jan maintain their humor through such scenarios as to make me cry. They lead us to non-profits like this: Mary Akrami began the first women's shelter in Afghanistan and has converted many in the government towards more humane policies. You would be so inspired by their workers' shining faces as they detail the community changes. When they first brought trainings into one community they needed five locations because the women from different mosques could not be with each other. Mary's group brought the men together for a four day training. The first day the men said, "We don't have time for this." The second day the men said, "When is this over?" The third day the men said, "Can we extend this?" And now the women in that community meet in one center.

As we walk in, Mary and her workers exclaim over our illustrious guides and the work they accomplish as the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers. They brainstorm and offer assistance to Hakim. This is often the reception we receive. This is Hakim. He gets all of us to laugh a lot. He inspires trust, and we hear no one in Kabul trusts – except the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers.

As we get out of the van, Hakim, who had been joshing with the driver Imam Daud along the way, told him he cared for him, and with tears in his eyes Imam Daud returned the blessing. It's not usually done in Afghanistan, but Hakim shows he cares for these people. Everywhere we went we saw the connections he's created among people of good will.

Tiny outdoor shops and rubble lead up to DACAAR, a Danish Refugee Relief organization with 27 years working with Afghan refugees. Guards swing open the gate, mirrors check under the cars, and smiles welcome us. Beautiful flowers and people greet us. It has the feel of Traditions Café in Olympia, with purpose, commitment, and transparency. They work for clean water, refugee assistance, and incredible women's projects. Shakila from the women's resource project shares details of 500 women in a center learning of carpets and weaving, literacy and tailoring. .. and it's working. DACAAR only supports a center for two years and then they must make it on their own. They've got five centers going and two more in the making.

One reason we're here is to bring water filters and training. As DACAAR reports, "Lack of sanitation kills more than lack of water, and lack of good hygiene kills more than lack of sanitation." And water issues kill more in Afghanistan than violence or starvation. So, this training brings all of this knowledge to a village around Bamiyan with the hope of it blossoming into many regional trainings. I am grateful to be working with DACAAR.

Then there is Zenda, or "Life" (the 5th door on the right in Wood Sellers Street by the river). They have spent many years creating fortified flours for better nutrition among the Afghan people. They share a compound (and an ever-present scraggly, protective dog) with 3rdeye, an Afghan photography project of hope and transformation. 3rdeye focuses on women and men working together, hardship, natural beauty and tradition. Photography is so new to the people of Afghanistan that some are afraid of it. Amardala talked of her wish to be a photographer even though she is threatened and her cameras get thrown to the ground. It's a courageous journey to detail the lives of Afghans with an eye towards peace. They speak of making a difference through pictures, because photos transcend words. Everyone can see the truth. USAID will help them tour the U.S. because of their message of beauty and peace, if 3rdeye gets the contacts. If you're inspired to help, visit their website at www.3rdeye.af.

So, we've visited many wonderful businesses. We've been to fair trade carpet shops, transitional justice meetings, learned about civil societies, and talked with refugees from Iran and Pakistan. We've also shared our apartment with inspiring youth gatherings and planning for peace through marches, music and radio advertisements.

Today we're off to Bamiyan for the water training, and I hear we get to attend a wedding! And yes, I have an amazing new love story to share and I've gotten many hugs. I've also realized how fortunate I am to live in our community with so much trust and love, so much assistance to bring us here. Some of the hardships are difficult for my mind to make sense of, yet it is good to be a witness.

Sending each of you love. Thinking of you and our community through the days.

September 25
Larry Kerschner

Landing in Bamiyan and meeting the boys with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers was like coming home. The terrain reminds we somewhat of Colorado or parts of Arizona. From the air, fingers of green farming valleys can be seen between the tall ridges. Nine or ten of us squeezed into a van and drove down Bamiyan's main street to the Zuhak Hotel Second floor, Room 8. 500 Afghanis [about $10 US] per night per room, shared squat toilet down the hall, meals not included.

We met around a table in a large room with the boys. I won't remember all the names...Faiz, Abdulai, Ali Agha, Hamat, Noor, Ali, Zekullah, and others. We shared greetings and took pictures, and then checked into our rooms. The boys took pity on my old bones and brought in a bed so I wouldn't have to sleep on a mat on the floor. After a brief rest we walked to the Bamiyan Peace Park for more visiting. This has a small town feel as many local people came up to talk and find out about us. A pleasant cool breeze came up as the sky darkened with lightning in the distance. Under a full moon we walked back into town and shared a fine meal prepared by the youth.

Last night two of the local police armed with rifles walked into my room without knocking. They just looked around and left. Again they didn't appear menacing. Very curious.

Goodbye to Bamiyan. This was a very sad leavetaking from the wonderful young people we have gotten to know. I became "uncle" to many of them. I can truly say they are now my family.

When we were waiting for a plane ride at the U.N. airport, one of the U.N. media/PR employees came up and talked about how much he is inspired by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers. He stated that most of the young people here have no hope for the future but the Peace Volunteers are showing hope with their lives. He offered to make the fast internet connection in the UN office available for future Global Days of Listening. Fast internet could greatly improve the communication which occurs during these events.

The pace, the odor, and the noise of Kabul was a sensory shock after the more human pace of Bamiyan. I tried to figure out how the drivers decided who has the right of way. Mostly it seemed to be whoever was the fastest, but when a number of cars got to the same point at the same time, it wasn't clear to me how they decided who goes first. At one point we saw eleven cars side by side and within a block they reduced to four side by side without slowing down or anyone hitting anyone else. I'm thinking that the drivers must practice Total Mindfulness Driving and the pedestrians surely all practice Total Mindfulness Walking. While we were in Bamiyan we were told that the local hospital gets 160 head injuries from vehicle accidents each month. I wonder what a similar figure for Kabul would be.

September 26
Larry Kerschner

I now realize how little I have known and still know about Afghanistan and the people who live here. Afghanistan appears to me to be teetering on the brink of collapse despite "the light at the end of the tunnel" talk by the militarist machine. Three and a half billion people on the globe live on less than $2.50 a day – most of the people of Afghanistan among them. Many people here express the desire that the apparent stability maintained by the military presence continue out of a fear of a return of, and the memory of the viciousness of, the Taliban.

However it is impossible for America to "save" Afghanistan. The current face of the American Dream, corporate capitalism, is based on an amoral domination of both people and the physical world and thus is totally antithetical to justice in any form. Any hope of a humane future for Afghanistan will require a radical shift in thinking that must arise from the people of Afghanistan. The Prophet Mohammed has said, "For a man to truly live, he must love for his brother what he loves for himself." The Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers are practicing this type of radical living each day. These young people, through some spectacular wisdom which has arisen out of the tragedy around them, ask "Why not love?" They are not Pollyannas since they see every day the real misery of their situation. They have recently seen a murderous warlord placed, in an absurd form of realpolitik, at the head of the highest peace council in Afghanistan, only to be assassinated. ("Credit" for this kill is denied by the "Taliban" and other groups.) A female orator at Rabani's funeral declared that the perpetrators would be found and "we will tear them apart with our teeth."

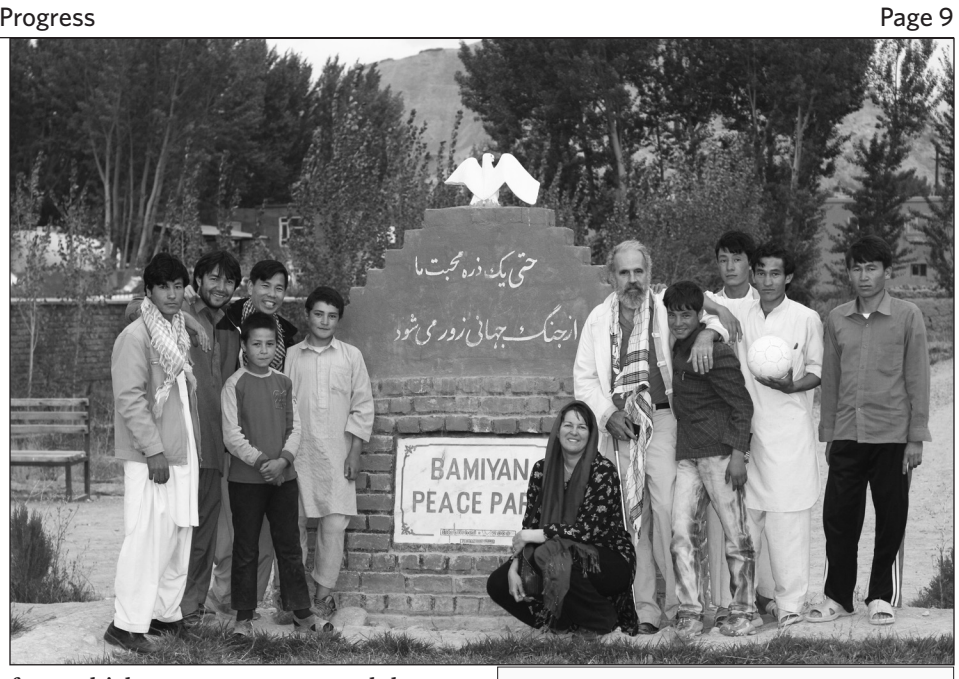
Any hope of a humane future for Afghanistan will require a radical shift in thinking that must arise from the people of Afghanistan.

We have been told that Afghans are Machiavellian and we have been told that Afghans do not trust one another. These young people know the difficulties they face, but with their clear thinking, can see that there is no other alternative except love and truth.

Afghanistan is torn by internal forces of racism between tribal groups, the power hunger of the warlords, the corruption of the government, homelessness for many, "night raids" of killing supposedly to protect them, unsanitary water supplies, an education system that is barely literate, a lack of trustworthy political leadership, a broken infrastructure, the brakes on any social change from the conservative religious leaders, insurgents and criminal gangs, and the trappings of an incipient police state. The external forces of the corporate desire to ravage the natural resources of Afghanistan, the militarist knowledge that Afghanistan provides a central position from which to attempt to control the rest of central Asia, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and other minions of the disaster capitalists, the ideas and excesses of western civilization (sic?), the tremors of the beginning of the end of the American Empire, and the current face of "the white man's burden" to show the brown people how to be just like us, are putting an incalculable strain on the Afghan society.

Despite the aberration of the past half century, the history of many hundreds of years shows that the people of Afghanistan are resilient. If they can gain the time to shake off the militarism and paternalism of the West and remember their own strengths and begin healing, maybe they can follow the lead of the brave members of the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers. This may be their only hope.

All of the daily journal entries are just my observations and impressions. I am not a sociologist, historian or any other form of academic. After a little less than a month here I cannot claim to begin to understand all that I have seen and heard. I will be the first to admit that all of my opinions and observations may have nothing to do with reality, but I do not think so. Nothing that I have said is to be taken as a position by any of the several organizations that I am connected with. These are my thoughts alone. Peace.



Top Dog
by Larry Kerschner

Top Dog wants to rule the world

Top Dog has followers
who unlike most dogs
are willing to do what humans will do;
this is the reason the rest of the pack
will go anywhere Top Dog points

Top Dog refuses to breathe the air
coming from another dog;
any other dog is less and
must be kept crushed under the paw

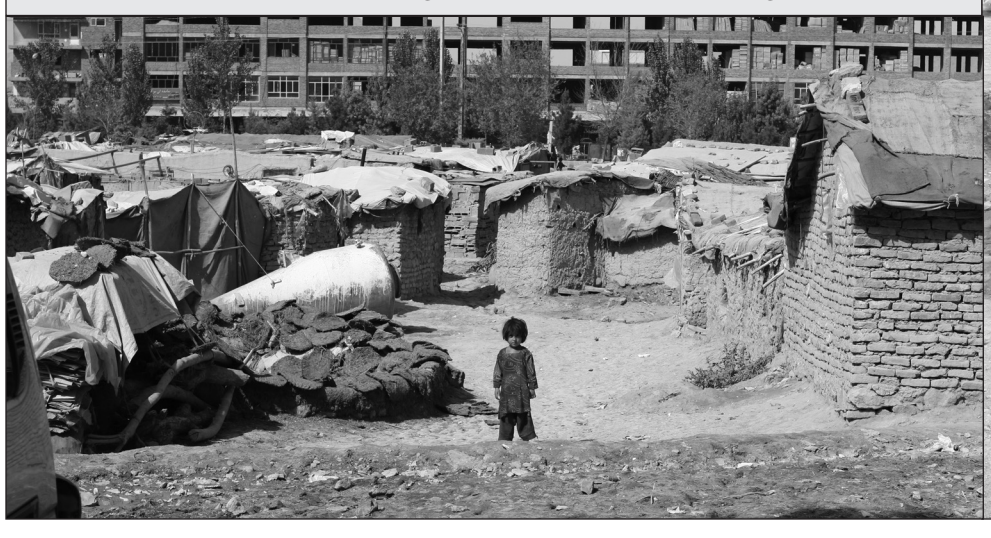
Top Dog is too proud
to even sniff the tail of another dog
Top Dog does not recognize
any other pack;
Top Dog is always
alone

Blood or surrender are the only answers that
Top Dog can hear

Top Dog's language is sharp force
the only poetry is the loud howl
the only music is the clatter
of running nails across the rocks;
when Top Dog does smile
it is only to show more
of his teeth

Top Dog has no history but memory
Top Dog offers no future but death

Bottom left: One of the young trainees shows off the cleaning capabilities of the water filters. Below: A young girl at the displaced persons camp in Kabul. Below right: Paytob-Laghman villagers working on the bio-sand water filters. Right and top right: Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers with the Afghan Peace and Clean Water Delegation.



Tulip Credit Union

A different kind of financial institution

Part 2 of 2

WIP News Service

The Thurston Union of Low-Income People, better known as Tulip Credit Union, is not your average "financial institution." Tulip was founded in 2004 by community activists and low-income people's advocates (with the help of other credit unions and the Olympia Food Co-op), under the belief that access to lending capital and financial support should be available to anyone, regardless of their economic status or their profitability. Today, Tulip continues to serve its mission by offering microcredit loans and financial counseling, and by giving the people of Thurston County a way to invest back into their own community, rather than helping pad the profits of the banking industry.

Last month, WIP *printed the first part of an interview with Johna La Rue, Tulip's manager, and Eric Bowman, Tulip's board chair, where they discussed Tulip's mission, the financial services Tulip Credit Union provides to the low-income community, and the dangers of predatory lending. This month, Eric and Johna discuss fiscal democracy, the cooperative nature of the credit union community, and how Tulip Credit Union has endured our tough economic times.*

The credit union community

Banks and credit unions operate on fundamentally different models. A bank is a profit-driven enterprise, geared toward increasing share value and investor return. A credit union, on the other hand, is a community partnership. A credit union belongs to its members, and focuses its policies on what's in the best interest of its membership. But the differences don't stop there.

Johna: Credit unions are helpful, because they're not really competing with each other. Most credit unions have specialized membership. There's one for state employees, for instance, and there's BECU (Boeing Employees Credit Union). We really don't compete the way name brand banks compete with other banks. We serve different segments of the community.

Eric: If we were approached with a new opportunity to serve a segment of the community, we would enthusiastically try to serve them. But if someone walked in and brought that idea to a bank, they wouldn't be interested. They'd just say, "We have our system."

Johna: Banks want to keep stuff on the hush-hush. They want to be the first to do something. They're being driven by investors, so if you give away a trade secret to a competitor, you take away revenue from that investor. But there's a much different culture in the credit union sector.

In fact, Tulip would not exist today without the larger credit union network. From providing additional money to lend, to back office support, Tulip still receives strong support from the credit union sector.

Eric: [When we started], we got a dozen or so credit unions to deposit funds in Tulip as non-members – and we still have quite a bit of those assets under our roof.

Tulip also benefits from relationships with governmental and non-governmental agencies, which provide local credit unions much-needed support and help build investor confidence.

Eric: There's the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), which is a government agency. We pay in a portion of our assets to basically self-insure the sector. If a credit union closes, it may not involve just people who have a savings account there. Some of those assets are from other institutions. When the NCUA comes in and takes over a credit union, they use that insurance fund to make sure everyone is insured, so the credit union sector is secured. Everyone's money is safe up to $250,000. Your money is safe in any credit union, because of the NCUA. And the NCUA reviews credit unions and gives them a CAMEL rating, which stands for Capital Assets Management and Earnings Liability. That rating gives the NCUA the authority to take action on institutions that are in trouble.

Then there's the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, or NFCDCU. We've had struggles over the years, and so we've called them up and said 'Hey, help us with this issue.' That's what they do. They help out credit unions like us. And we're certified with the US Treasury as a CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) – that's for lenders which focus on community development. Some focus on ethnic community development, some in specific underserved geographic communities. For us, it's the low-income community.

Johna: And we're in the regional credit union league, which used to be the Washington Credit Union League. Basically, 99% of credit unions in the State of Washington were in the statewide Credit Union League. Now it's the Northwest Credit Union Association (NWCUA), after the merger of the state leagues for Washington and Oregon into one region-wide association. And the League is in the Credit Union National Association (or CUNA).

And Tulip got a $5000 grant from the Washington Credit Union Foundation to do marketing. And we received another grant from CUNA which enabled our managers to attend a branch management conference.

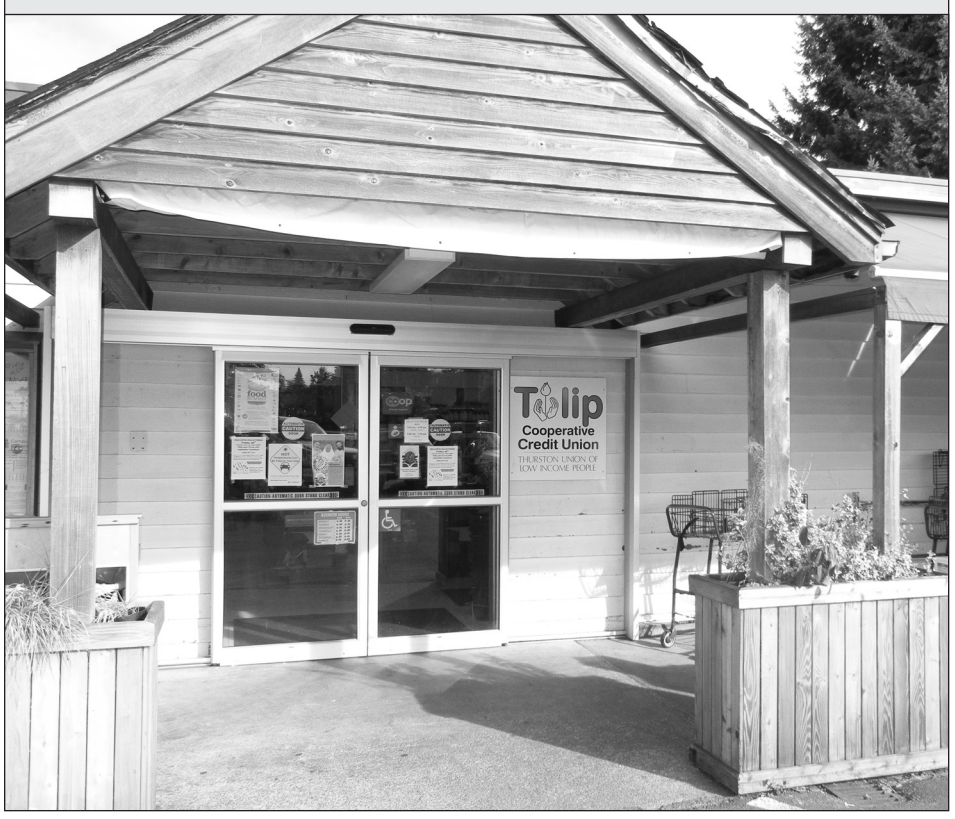
Eric: The bottom line of all the acronyms is, credit unions are really a system, which makes us a lot stronger. When Tulip needs help, we just call up another credit union. "Hey, we're trying this thing out. What have you tried doing about this problem?" Name brand banks can't call each other up and ask them what they're up to.

How unique is Tulip?

Eric: Tulip isn't the only low-income credit union. There's Express Credit Union in Seattle, and there are others. And we got help from all kinds of credit unions, but most of them don't have the same mission focus as Tulip or Express. We really are an anomaly. We have less than $10 million in assets.

Johna: To give you an idea, I went to a credit union conference in Portland. And they broke everyone up into groups. And they did it by assets: How big is your credit union? How much in assets do you have? And we got seated at the "Under $250 million" table.

Unfortunately, as Eric explains, small credit unions are becoming a dying breed as the financial sector become more complex and credit unions merge to grow and stay competitive.



Tulip Credit Union is located inside the Eastside Food Co-op on Pacific Avenue. For more information on financial services offered by Tulip, call (360) 570-2292, or go to www.tulipcu.coop

Eric: We were the first credit union to be chartered in Washington in 17 years. Right around the time we got started, there was a little wave of interest in low-income credit unions getting chartered. But many of them haven't made it to this day. I've been told that Tulip might be one of the last new credit unions to be chartered in our State, because it is very difficult to get a new credit union off the ground. Creating a business is a lot of hard work. It's easier to just re-imagine an existing credit union, or open a branch of an existing credit union.

2011 has already seen a credit union fail, and one merger. Every year there are fewer and fewer credit unions, even as the larger credit unions grow. Tulip helps hold the hope of being able to build newer credit unions. But with the increased cost of doing business, and with interest rates so low...

So what exactly are the operational obstacles faced by credit unions today?

Eric: Our problems don't stem from giving low-income people money. They come from having to spend money on debit cards, and regulatory compliance. Back in the '80s, a credit union would often be run out of a union hall or church closet. You would just walk up to the union representative's desk. Applications would be in this drawer, cash in that drawer. I know why the federal government has made it so credit unions have to be more professional. It's for the members' benefit, but it's really expensive.

But the news is not all bad. There's still widespread community support for the credit union model, especially in the wake of the federal bank bailout of 2008.

Johna: As it was reported in *The Olympian* last year, Tulip received secondary capital from the Treasury under the Community Development Capital Initiative. The only reason they opened up any money to credit unions is because they were giving all this bailout money to the big banks, just supporting them, and people called them out on it.

Only credit unions certified as CDFI's – for community development – were eligible for this government program. And the assistance to Tulip didn't stop with federal programs.

Johna: Last year, BECU supported us with an ad campaign. They hired a firm out of Spokane. They put six of our members in four ads, they made Internet videos. They targeted a broad cross-section of the community. It was super exciting to have resources spent on our marketing. We're still penny-pinching on our marketing.

Eric: We've really spent a lot of time just trying to survive the last few years. We've had some opportunities the last few years, but we're still small and young. We haven't really pulled it all off, not as much as we'd like.

Fiscal democracy

Eric and Johna were asked to speak to the ways Tulip helps promote participatory politics in Olympia.

Eric: One thing is that we have a board that any Tulip member can run for. And in fact, we're often seeking members to run for the board. That's one of the things that makes a credit union fundamentally different from a bank. The board has a fiduciary responsibility to the membership, not to shareholders. As the only low-income financial institution in the community, we're one of the few that's sort of purpose-built to provide services to low-income people, and that would seek representation from the low-income community on the board of directors.

Johna: Our board is really the best. We have somebody from every walk of life on the board. So for everyone, there's always somebody on the board talking to them. People have been homeless and been on the board, and got their lives back together. We had one person who was a board member who went on to work in the White House!

Eric: People often run for the board over emotional attachment, and then when they get here, they learn about the financial aspects of how to run a credit union. We're just everyday people. We wouldn't typically have access to boardrooms. There's something empowering about that for the membership, whether they want to run or not.

Johna: We'll sometimes get people who call up and yell at us about something, and we usually respond, "Well, if you're that mad, you should run for the board."

And this participatory model, in turn, helps Tulip better carry out its mission.

Johna: The board is very much on the same level as the membership. People come in and we know their names.

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

When Tulip needs help, we just call up another credit union. "Hey, we're trying this thing out. What have you tried doing about this problem?" Name brand banks can't call each other up and ask what they're up to.

Members will see us around town and say "Hi." I'll be going and getting a coffee, and the person in front of me will say "Oh Johna, I know, I'm late on my loan this month!"

Like I tell people, "It's our credit union." It's ours by necessity. If we were larger, we might not be as in touch these last few years. We do a good job of operating as a team. People are able to feel really hands-on.

Eric: I'm very glad everyone was as committed as they were. Given different folks, we wouldn't be here today. There's something innately empowering about how they were able to make Tulip happen. Some boards are full of 80-year old white guys, who might not be as engaged, and not in touch with the fact that a credit union is a co-operative.

Tulip also benefits from connections with other community institutions, and those institutions benefit from affiliation with Tulip.

Johna: I really like being inside the Olympia Food Co-op. It's unique to have a credit union built by a co-op, inside the co-op. And we have articles in the Co-op Newsletter, talking about saving money, about the importance of keeping money local.

Eric: The money you invest in Tulip goes to support local low-income financial services. Your dollars don't go to pad the profits of the banking industry. Your dollars stay locally, and they make a difference.

Looking to the future

In these tough economic times, a credit union like Tulip is more important than ever. But need alone does not make a credit union thrive. So what exactly does Tulip Credit Union need to not only fulfill its mission of serving the low-income community, but grow in the process?

Eric: The bottom line is controlled growth. We've got money to lend and are bending over backwards to find places to lend it. Our credit union's goal is serve a larger portion of the region's low-income community. And we can only do what we do when more affluent members of the community take their loans out with us. Period.

We love our current members but we know we can do more. We've spent the past several years working extremely hard to secure Tulip's future. As a small financial institution, our success depends on strong, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Our Big Goal in 2011 is to increase the number of Olympia Food Co-op members who utilize Tulip as part of their overall banking options. We aspire to grow along with the Olympia Food Co-op as they explore expansion opportunities.

We seek a stronger representation by our region's immigrant communities. It's my belief that as a smaller credit union, we can be more responsive to specific, targeted products. For example, very few financial institutions offer Sharia-compliant lending. We've conducted research and outreach on fronts such as these over the past couple of years.

The money you invest in Tulip goes to support local low-income financial services. Your dollars don't go to pad the profits of the banking industry.

We've met with clients and staff at the Housing Authority and local nonprofits like SafePlace and Mercy Housing. Our goal is to be the first stop for individuals seeking to gain control over their personal finances.

We've worked hard to increase our outreach to the local business community. These partnerships range from connecting with used car dealers so they can direct loans to us, to exploring partnerships with professional associations whose members require loans for ongoing training and professional development. We've also formed relationships with small scooter or trailer dealerships. We've increased our communication with local banks and credit unions so their lending departments know to refer us loans they can't make.

Right now, we're very proud to have survived the financial crisis and Great Recession. In five years, we hope to be thriving. More members, more loans, more community groups, and more accessibility. The only way we can do this is by being convenient, more empathetic, and more personable than the corporate banks.

Johna: Basically, we're still here. We want people to know we're still here, still doing what we set out to do, and that we can't do it without people knowing about us.

The color of an unequal recession

Susan Williams, M.D.

The economic crisis that began four years ago eroded the quality of life for almost everyone in this country. Yet whether talking about jobs, homes or healthcare, the most devastating blows strike those with the least. For people of color, it's a full-blown depression.

The real jobless "recovery." An acquaintance, let's call him Alvaro, age 52, arrived from Mexico 11 years ago. Living in New York City, he did construction work, but always "off the books, because I have no papers, no union, no insurance." Laid off in 2007, he never found another job, and now — with deteriorating health — has given up trying.

He's not alone. Information released in August showed immigrants hardest hit by the slump in construction. Employment of foreign-born men dropped by nearly a third from 2007 to 2010, compared with "only" 21.6 percent of men born here. Immigrants who do have work are in lower-end jobs. While others got a modest gain in wages, theirs fell. Not only livelihoods, but lives are more and more threatened by vicious legislation from Arizona to Florida scapegoating those who were among the first victims of the economic crisis.

The devastation of communities of color in the last four years shows that the idea of today's U.S. as a "post-racial" society is a delusion.

Not that being "legal," even US-born, is protection. Latinos and Latinas were slammed; over 600,000 jobs vanished for them. Blacks lost more jobs than they had gained in the prior decade.

In August, 8.0 percent of white men were unemployed, but 17.3 percent of Black men were. For Black youth it was an appalling 47.2 percent!

Many who have jobs are underemployed, with no benefits. People of color go longer before finding work and are less likely to get unemployment compensation. Nearly one-third of unemployed African Americans in New York City have been jobless for more than three years; over one-third more have been jobless for over a year.

The employment gap is even wider for Native Americans. Only 44 percent held jobs in the northern plains states last year, despite the fact that rates for whites there are better than the national average. Alaskan Natives are in similar straits.

For all people of color, the racial job gap is widening. Ten years ago, as the country recovered from the last recession, 64.9 percent of adult white men were employed compared to 60.5 percent of Blacks. Now the number of whites with jobs is *higher* at 68.8 percent, but Black men have fallen to only 57 percent.

The employment divide is going to get worse, because Blacks and Latinos are more likely to work in the sector most under attack — public service jobs. One in five African Americans works for the government.

Women and elders suffer. Early on, commentators underscored the relatively heavier toll on men of color, with the creation of new jobs growing more slowly than the need. But in the past two years, the total jobs for Black women have actually fallen. Looking ahead, their jobs as teachers and caregivers are high on the hit list. Black and Latina women were also targeted for sub-prime mortgages, the credit rip-off that triggered the economic crash. As people lost their jobs, Black families (slightly more than half with a single mom), have been far more likely to lose homes.

Most elders have gotten poorer. More than three-quarters of older Latinos, and 69 percent of African Americans, are unable to pay for basic needs — rent, food, medicine, and transportation — compared with a lower, but still outrageous, 44 percent of whites.

A racial chasm. The widening racial divide is revealed most starkly by the declining figures for household worth: the value of belongings (home, car, savings, stocks) minus debts. Here the combined impacts of perpetually lower employment, lower wages, and more costly credit don't just add, they multiply.

Census Bureau data comparing 2005 with 2009 showed all groups hurt by the crisis. However, white households started out ahead, with median assets of $134,992 falling to $113,149. This 16 percent drop is bad enough. But compare it to African American families, who were at only $12,124 and fell to $5,677 (*53 percent*), or Latinos, who dropped from $18,539 to $6,235 (a whopping *66 percent*).

Asian Americans, the so-called "model" minority, had the highest pre-crisis holdings: $168,103. No more. They lost a quarter million jobs, and household worth fell by *54 percent*, to $78,066.

Headlines across the country blasted news of this "lost wealth," the largest drop since the Census Bureau began collecting this information. Let's get real. The assets of working people of all races weren't "lost" — they were stolen.

Robbing the poor to give to the rich. During these years, the ultra-rich — 74 people whose average income started at $91.2 million — jumped more than *five times* to an unspeakably obscene $518.8 million. In fact, the minuscule fraction of the wealthiest *within* each racial group got richer, while millions sank.

Workers are poorer, but big corporations are making record profits and paying their CEOs to cut wages, lay off workers and dodge taxes. On Aug. 31, the *Washington Post* revealed that 25 of the highest-paid CEOs got more in salary than their companies, including Verizon and Boeing, paid in taxes.

The U.S. was built on stolen Native American land and genocide, stolen lives of Black slaves, and stolen labor of immigrants of many colors. The devastation of communities of color in the last four years shows that the idea of today's U.S. as a "post-racial" society is a delusion.

True to their heritage, Wall Street bosses turned their crisis into the biggest transfer of riches from working people to the ruling class the world has ever seen. They used intensified racist exploitation and outright thievery to do it. As their castles in sand continue to crumble, they'll keep on doing it — until working people unite across color lines to stop them.

www.socialism.com

2011 Co-op Board candidate questionnaire

The community organizations Bridges Not Walls, Olympia BDS, Olympia Seed Exchange, and POWER have put together four questions, one from each organization, to the candidates in this year's election for the Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors. We hope that Co-op voters will find this helpful when choosing who to vote for, as additional materials to what is already printed in the latest Co-op newsletter.

The deadline for voting is November 15. For more details on how to vote, see the current Co-op newsletter (http://www.olympiafood.coop/currentnews.pdf)

Question 1 (Bridges Not Walls): We're an immigrant-rights organization that recognizes that boycotts have historically been a tool for social justice – for instance the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Chateau St. Michelle, and the United Farmworkers. How do you see boycotts as being a tool for social change that recognizes the human rights of all?

Keith Dublanica: I see boycotts as having the potential of being very effective in addressing injustices while providing information to consumers of products and services that may have underlying elements not readily apparent that contribute to ongoing oppressions. Social change opportunities and avenues come in many varieties. However, I believe due caution is warranted when addressing the issue. The framing of the argument and activity or actions planned may have other underlying effects and circumstances of a cascading nature that could be contradictory to the purported desire. Transparency and due process are a feature and factor in addressing what may be determined to be a social justice challenge. While the goal may be admirable, the means to the ends should also weigh the possible circumstances that may be ambiguous with emotions perhaps generating heated responses. A healthy facilitated process employing consensus-based decision making assures voices of all are heard.

Keith M. Dublanica

Cezanne Murphy-Levesque: Boycotts are a powerful tool for social change because they do two things. First, the boycott campaign educates the consumer about the situation – often a labor dispute or human rights issue. Second, the boycott provides an immediate action for someone to affect change – "Hey, don't buy this thing." I have an inherent desire to protect the human rights of all people, so I choose to participate. I believe I share this desire with most folks, and this is why boycotts work.

Rob Richards: There is a long history of boycott being used to effect social change, both in America and throughout the world. I believe that the boycott, being non-violent, is one of the most powerful tools we have, when used effectively. I will continue to push the Co-op to support organizations like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, through financial contributions and various support as need arises.

Joshua Simpson: Boycotts are one of the most effective nonviolent tools for bringing about change and social justice. The reason that people often find them threatening is because they work. They have historically been proven to be a successful form of combating injustice. Whether in support of farm workers, civil rights advocates, or in opposition to apartheid; boycotts have always been used to help give social justice movements more teeth in fighting for change. The Co-op should continue to honor boycotts of producers that do not support the rights of their workers, and honor boycotts of nations that do not respect basic human rights. I also realize that the harm likely to be imposed on those that are being boycotted always pales in comparison to the suffering of the oppressed people calling for a boycott.

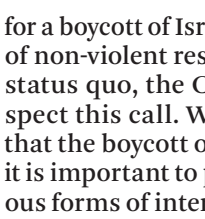
Joseph Webster: Boycotts are an effective tool against injustice. Injustice should not be financed or supported. If someone knowingly finances or contributes to a wrong, they have committed a wrong as well.

Question 2 (Olympia BDS): What would you do to ensure that the Co-op upholds its mission to "encourage economic and social justice," and how does that relate to the current boycott of Israeli products?

Keith Dublanica: A healthy, facilitated process employing consensus-based decision making assures the voices of all are heard. As a Co-op Board member, I would cite the mission and the appropriate mechanisms needed for such decisions. I believe the Co-op has investigated many of its decisions in appropriate forums with healthy discourse. Regarding the current boycott of Israeli products, I do not believe that due process was utilized. Certain members and staff have felt dissatisfied with a lack of a participatory democratic process one expects from this organization. Some feel alienated, not heard, responded to, or even considered in this particular issue. Responses are lacking. Certain Board decisions were made without full support of the membership and staff. The process to reach that decision was not made in the best fashion possible. If the mission is encouraging economic and social justice, then there is an inherent hypocrisy in the lack of due process. Co-op should consider another round of public meetings to keep the conversation going.

Rob Richards: The best and most direct way that we promote economic and social justice currently is by providing affordable fresh, local food, and locally manufactured products. Beyond that, I'd like to see us expand our efforts in assisting organizations seeking to secure more local farmland, to empower more local manufacturers in getting their products to market, and expanding our outreach and education programs to more areas outside of our general membership, especially into low-income neighborhoods and populations. Due to current litigation, my legal counsel has advised me not to answer any questions related to the Boycott of Israeli products. I feel that I have a clear record on this issue that can be drawn from.

Joshua Simpson: As a veteran of the war in Iraq, I have seen firsthand the effects of military occupation, and can sympathize with the Palestinian people who have been living under an even more brutal military occupation for decades. Since the people of Palestine have recently called for a boycott of Israeli products as a form of non-violent resistance to the current status quo, the Co-op has a duty to respect this call. While some may think that the boycott of Israel is too extreme, it is important to point out that all previous forms of international intervention and peace-making have failed to convince the Israeli government to comply with international law or to respect the fundamental human rights of Palestinians. I cannot think of a more peaceful way to oppose the occupation and oppression of the people of Palestine than continuing the current boycott.


Joshua Simpson

Joseph Webster

Joseph Webster: As any institution in general, the Co-op has an obligation to promote justice, both economically and socially. Any political entity guilty of injustice and oppression should be boycotted. In regard to the boycott of Israeli goods, I think the Co-op's stand is correct because I do not think that any sane person on this planet would want to be treated as the Palestinians are – not even Israelis.

Question 3 (Olympia Seed Exchange): What role do you envision the Co-op having in community-based efforts to promote local food sovereignty?

Keith Dublanica: The Co-op can and should continue to be a leader in promoting food sovereignty. This is being done through the recent Food Summit, supporting slow-food programs, local support of producers, continuing the environmental education the Co-op provides in their product line and better utilization of the webpage and newsletter. Community, local, grassroots, "Think global, act local" – These are familiar terms and ideas that support local production. Food sovereignty can also address the aspect of consumer desires to have products that may not be locally produced except seasonally, so the continued investigation of the products and producers along with the food and economic chains are important. Food production, the economics of local producers, and the lesser carbon footprint is also enhanced with better nutrition, personal and community health, through knowledge-based processes. Local seed sources, heirloom varieties and lesser-known (or lesser-valued?) species are an encouraging aspect of local food sovereignty.

Cezanne Murphy-Levesque: If anything, I think the Co-op should consider a campaign to minimize the foods and products on the shelves that are imported from overseas in favor of local foods. Having a wide selection of foods is nice, but having a smaller ecological footprint and supporting local foods is better. Providing more information with the food on the shelves will help our members make more sustainable choices. I also want the Co-op to continue to partner with other community organizations and do more outreach to restaurants, schools and other businesses serving food to promote local farmers and food producers.

Cezanne Murphy-Levesque

Rob Richards: There are many great organizations out there looking to expand their reach, and that want to lead the way toward greater food sovereignty. I see the role of the Co-op as being to empower, support, and then ultimately get out of the way of these groups. We are in a unique financial situation where we can serve as an incubator for these organizations.

Joshua Simpson: The Co-op should continue to support local farms by giving farmers fair prices for their produce while still offering it at an affordable price to the public and low-income members of the Co-op. The Co-op should also continue to offer alternative ways for low-income people to at-

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

THE 2011 OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP BOARD ELECTION

Four seats on the Co-op Board of Directors are up for election this year, with six candidates running. This is a 2-year term, for 2012-2013. The candidates are:

Keith M. Dublanica
Allyson Ruppenthal
Joshua Simpson
Cezanne Murphy-Levesque
Rob Richards (incumbent)
Joseph Webster

The election is only open to Co-op members. Members may vote in person or by mail. Ballots must be received by November 15. For more information on how to vote, visit the Co-op, or go to www.olympiafood.coop.

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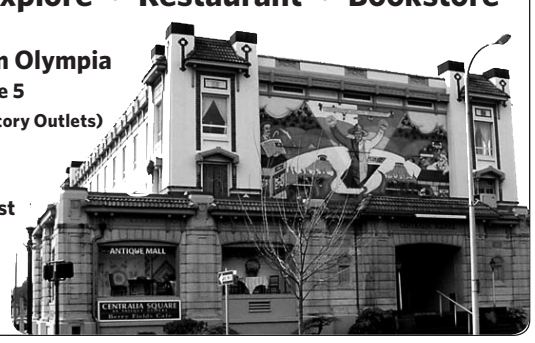

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Carole Willey, BSW
P.O. Box 4408
Tumwater, WA 98501
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Carole Willey, Community Organizer & Strategist
Occasionally, organizations will find themselves short-staffed in need of experienced personnel with legislative or capitol campus expertise. Until now, there has been no one they could contact.

Successful Fun(d)raiser for Scott Yoos Legal Defense Fund

A great time was had by all at the Performance Art and Pie Social (a.k.a. Occu-pie Traditions) on Oct. 26. Much appreciation to Traditions Fair Trade: to Dick Meyer for providing a warm and welcoming space, to Jody Tiller Mackey who, after putting in a full day of work, stayed to operate the sound board with her inimitable skill and kindness, and to Mike and Marylea Coday for bringing everyone together. The two-hour show was jam-packed with local artists whose talent, brilliance and passion are part of what makes Olympia so special. Thanks to the generosity of the community, enough funds were raised to pay Scott's attorney up until the trial phase of the case.

Scott, who is unable to speak due to a brain injury, was attacked and arrested by Olympia police in June, when trying to throw away used napkins in an open dumpster. The police, who were unprepared to interact with someone with a speech disability, claimed Scott's use of sign language to communicate was "assaultive." When the City of Olympia dropped all charges against Scott, Thurston County picked them up and changed a misdemeanor to a Class C Felony (assault in the third degree). Scott has hired attorney Christopher Taylor, and the case is moving forward in Thurston County Superior Court.

The next pre-trial hearing is on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 10:30 am. Join us for a vigil outside the Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeride Dr. SW, at 9:15 am -- We'll provide signs. If you can stay on, please come with us into the courtroom.

Other important court dates: Jan. 4 (pre-trial hearing) and Jan. 9 (trial begins).

For more information about Scott's case and to make a donation, do a Facebook search for "Scott Yoos Support Committee & Legal Defense Fund." Visit olywip.org for previous coverage of Scott's case. (See the July and September issues.)

Scott (left) and the Funny Farmers (right) at the Scott Yoos fundraiser. Photos by Wendy Tanowitz.

tain healthy food (such as purple cards, volunteering, and accepting SNAP benefits). The Co-op should also make sure that all local farms and suppliers treat their employees, animals, and the environment in a way that encourages "economic and social justice." I believe that food is a human right, and the Co-op should continue and extend its work to make sure that local food sources are given priority over food that has had to travel greater distances.

Joseph Webster: The promotion of local foods is one the best ways to reduce the ecological footprint associated with food production. I envision the Co-op playing a major role in promoting local foods to minimize the negative effects of food production on the environment and local business.

Question 4 (POWER): We at POWER want to thank the Co-op for being the only business in town that provides a discount to shoppers because they're low income, and recognizes childcare as a form of work, thus making it a working member job. What further measures would you take to address class barriers in our community?

Keith Dublanica: The local and regional economic strife is contributing to more and more people living closer to a lean edge. Traditional retail and other establishments could take a long look at the Co-op decision to provide discounts. The Co-op could take additional initiative. The barriers of class and economics are being all the more intensified by the media through examples like the "occupations and encampments," locally and nationally. Food security, the ability to use volume and economies of scale, along with community inter-dependence are aspects of addressing the class barriers. However, there are larger issues and forums where the methods and actions necessary to address and remedy such inequities may best be served by the Co-op in more of an advisory or advocacy role. This advocacy may be best done through Co-op Board support in forums, educational seminars, and facilitated discussions that address class barriers, perhaps through the Evergreen State College.

Cezanne Murphy-Levesque: I would like to pursue accepting WIC benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). Also, how can we make it easier for folks to shop at the Co-op without a vehicle? Really, there is only so much you can carry on a bus, bike, or stroller.

Rob Richards: I stated above the importance of outreach and education to low-income people. I want to see us really expand our efforts, but not just by holding workshops and "giving" poor people knowledge. If we are going to create lasting change, we have to structure our outreach around the concept of reciprocal empowerment. We have to create programs that aren't based on pity, empathy, or even just solidarity - but a structure that supports differences and creates an atmosphere of equity among all participants.

Rob Richards

Joshua Simpson: During tough economic times, the Co-op needs to make sure that all of its members continue to have access to healthy food regardless of their income. The Co-op could work to extend the discount that it gives to low-income members and possibly better compensating low-income members who volunteer at the Co-op already. The Co-op can also work to make sure that the prices of its food are always competitive with the unhealthy food options that are more easily available to members with less income. If it is feasible for the Co-op to expand to other parts of Olympia, it would make access to the Co-op more feasible to members who for whatever reason are less able to commute to the two current locations.

Joseph Webster: The Co-op should maintain its efforts to provide a discount to shoppers because they're low income, and to encourage other businesses to adopt a similar policy. This method of redistribution is an effective means to offset economic challenges and to ensure that everyone has their basic necessities.

(Allyson Ruppenthal, also a board candidate, had not submitted her responses at the time of printing this article.)

▸ **CAT,** from page 7

protests. The petition was signed by over 150 organizations and 7,000 individuals. As of now, the Turner Prize is still set to be given to Caterpillar privately at an undisclosed location and time. However, on the Turner Construction Co. webpage discussing the award, Caterpillar is still mysteriously missing from the list of recipients. In early October, RCF closed the petition campaign, effectively deciding to stop placing additional pressure on the museum beyond what the organization has already done.

Real victory or merely symbolic? Connections to Olympia

Rochelle Gause noted that "Even though [Caterpillar is] still receiving the award, they are not able to receive the award publicly any longer without fear of demonstrations and protests." She continued, "I think the point of the boycott, divest, and sanctions [BDS] movement is bringing attention to the situation and the reality."

Some may wonder whether BDS actions like these have any real impact. For activists like Gause, BDS initiatives are more than symbolic. "Whether it be the various boycotts like the Olympia Food Co-op, the divestment effort, or the CAT campaign," Gause remarked, "what's amazing is that small groups of people can collectively have small victories that add up together to changing public opinion and ideally shifting both US aid and the occupation."

RCF leadership on the Turner Prize Campaign is part of a growing movement within Olympia responding to a 2005 call-to-action from Palestinian civil society for boycott, divest, and sanction of the Israeli occupation. Within Olympia alone, there are several community groups and individuals connected to the BDS struggle whether they're for, against or in between. (Not to mention the current lawsuit against the Olympia Co-op by members opposed to the boycott of Israeli products). And given the money we each give to Israel annually through our federal tax dollars, it makes sense that Olympians care. Even as Washington faces further cuts in November, Thurston County alone is set to contribute $26.2 million to Israel between 2009-2018 through federal tax dollars (aidtoisrael.org). That tax money, along with the vibrant Olympia BDS movement, has rooted the Israeli-Palestinian issue in our community. The once strictly international issue has become a local concern, one affecting our pocket books, our food, and our consciousness.

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▸ **ISRAEL,** continued from page 7

Bank, settler violence seen on the rise," *Reuters*, 14 July 2011).

These attacks largely go unpunished. According to Israeli human rights group Yesh Din, of over 600 complaints filed by Palestinians at "Samaria & Judea (SJ) District Police" stations in the West Bank regarding offenses committed by Israeli civilians against them and their property since 2005, only 8 percent of investigations led to the offenders being identified and indicted ("Recommendations: Improving law enforcement in the West Bank," Yesh Din, 20 September 2011).

"It reflects a very deep and wide racism and violence that has been going around in Israeli Zionist discourse for years and years. It's only been [escalating], and it's becoming more and more violent and racist by the day," said Michal Vexler, an Israeli political activist who attended the demonstration in Jaffa against the price tag attacks.

Vexler is a member of Anarchists Against the Wall and Boycott from Within, a group of Israeli activists supporting the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel. Vexler said that BDS was the only way to put pressure on Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, its apartheid policies inside the country, and the growing wave of extremism that fuels "price tag" violence.

"Boycott Israel. Stop buying Israeli goods. I'm afraid the situation here is totally hopeless. I don't see any way to stop it but to stop Zionism completely. It might sound radical; but wherever I go, I just encounter more violence and more repression and I won't be surprised if these demonstrations would become more and more rare," she said.

"But I deeply believe in the possibility of living together, Jews and Arabs, and I'm here to show my solidarity. [It's] not because I know it's going to change something, but because I know my neighbors will be here, my friends will be here, and they were hurt [because of the attack in Jaffa]," Vexler added.

Attacks could "burn the city"

Shortly after the attack on the Jaffa cemeteries, the Israeli media reported that a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the roof of a local synagogue. According to Jaffa resident Sami Abu Shehadeh, this is exactly what the people who desecrated the gravestones were hoping for: igniting tensions between Jewish and Palestinian residents of Jaffa.

"Jaffa is a mixed city. We have Jews and Arabs living together, and such acts could simply burn the city. When anyone comes to damage a cemetery, which is something very, very sensitive, a Christian and a Muslim cemetery, it means that he wants to burn the city," Abu Shehadeh said.

"This is a very dangerous situation and we don't know how it will develop. Unfortunately, I'm really worried that tomorrow these kinds of people might attack people, not just gravestones."

Jillian Kestler-D'Amours is a reporter and documentary filmmaker based in Jerusalem. More of her work can be found at jkdamours.com.

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"Truth is on the side of the oppressed." - Malcolm X

▸ **PAC-MAN,** continued from page 1

there are mainly three logical options that legislators can immediately take: 1) They reduce state spending (a.k.a. budget cuts); 2) they can create revenue to meet up with state spending; 3) they do a combination of 1 and 2. It seems so far, that they are entirely relying on option 1.

Last legislative session, the budget was passed with no additional revenue and $4.6 billion in cuts. At least in that session, there were some talks of revenue, when Rep. Laurie Jinkins of Tacoma put forth a bill to tax big banks to avoid class-size increases in elementary schools. (The bill did not pass because of Initiative 1053; more on that later.) As of yet, there seem to be no public, extensive talks of revenue creation within the legislature in the preparations for the special session. When Gregoire announced the special session, she said that "all options are on the table" but then proceeded to say that "she isn't talking revenue now," effectively removing revenue from the table, at least for the special session.

Essentially, we're facing $2 billion in cuts on top of previous budget cuts over the last three years that have already slashed $10 billion of the budget. Gregoire said legislators need to stop taking a "Pac-Man approach" of cutting bites of budgets here and there; instead they need to consider fully terminating programs. Throughout late September and October, Gregoire, legislators, the OFM, and government agencies worked to devise budget reduction options. On October 27, Gregoire released her recommendations for reducing the budget which include measures like: terminating Washington's Basic Health Plan, eliminating work study, reducing or eliminating food assistance, and cutting aid to higher education by 15%, among other measures. Although nothing is conclusive yet, this gives you a picture of the grim reductions legislators are considering. Gregoire will release her formal budget proposal in late November before the special session begins.

When Gregoire announced her recommendations she did mention revenue again saying, "This is what the cuts look like. We have to ask ourselves now: Do we want to look at alternatives of revenue — what might they be, and do we want to go there?" Many Democrats, like Senator Ed Murray of Seattle, do want to go there eventually, but it doesn't seem to be an option for the special session as of yet.

Many lawmakers don't particularly enjoy being a part of the budget-cut bonanza. "The social services cuts are painful for me, internally," Gregoire placed her hand on heart during a press conference, "... but frankly, I don't have an alternative for you." Many community groups on the other hand do believe there are alternatives, and several at that. Susie Levy, an organizer with grassroots organization Washington-CAN, seemed taken aback by Gregoire's remarks, "That Gregoire can..say that we can't think about revenue in a time when we're cutting kids off health care is absurd."

Obstacles to Closing Tax Loopholes

So why aren't lawmakers discussing revenue creation in the preparations for the special session? It turns out that creating revenue is actually a lot harder than reducing spending. To fill the spending gap, Washington would have to make pretty significant changes to its current tax system. As John Barnes of the independent think tank Washington Policy Center reminded me, "Revenue isn't 'created,' it's taken from someone in the form of a tax increase." Some critics like Barnes worry about the consequences of raising taxes on hard-hit families and small businesses. However, progressives seem to be less focused on raising taxes universally, and more focused on ending what they see as unfair tax breaks for big corporations and the wealthy. Gregoire's office however, questions the viability of closing tax loopholes. "Someone will have to show me $2 billion of tax loopholes that I could get past the legislature and the court of public opinion," Gregoire challenged. Karina Shagren, spokesperson for Gregoire's office noted, "We're not like Washington DC, we're not providing huge tax breaks to oil companies. That's why Gregoire has always said that it's very difficult to find major savings in tax loopholes, they're just not there." John Barnes agreed, "Various special interest groups on the left have made it sound as if a vast sum of revenue lay hidden in many of these tax incentives [a.k.a. tax breaks], when in fact that's simply not the case."

But many people argue that is actually the case. The Budget and Policy Center (BPC), "an independent, progressive policy organization," points out that Washington could create $100 million in revenue through ending various tax breaks like the ones for out-of-state banks and shoppers, recipients of elective cosmetic surgery, country clubs, and large agribusinesses. "In fact," they write on their blog, " the state's own auditors have identified over $970 million in tax preferences that should be terminated or re-examined." Tara Lee of the BPC elaborated, "Some tax breaks do serve a valid purpose, but it is important they be reviewed to make sure that they are doing so. That is not happening now."

Susie Levy agreed: "[Legislators] are not reassessing the [tax] exemptions every year, they're only making the cuts." Despite Gregoire's worries of public opinion regarding closing tax loopholes, Tara Lee contended, "I think most voters would agree [budget] cuts would hurt our state even more deeply than closing targeted tax breaks."

Even if Washington did end tax breaks though, it still wouldn't produce enough revenue to bring us out of the hole. "But," Tara Lee argues, "it will help." That's why she and the rest of the BPC argue for what they call a "balanced approach" to the budget that includes increasing revenue with targeted cuts.

Yet if lawmakers did want to end tax breaks, they would have to face significant legal obstacles. Last year voters overwhelmingly passed a law that makes it much more difficult for legislators to raise taxes. That law, Initiative 1053, requires legislators to have a two-thirds majority in order to increase taxes. That means that even when legislators are trying to pass a progressive tax bill that would, for instance, raise taxes on big corporations, they would have to get it agreed on by two-thirds of the legislators. "Getting a majority [vote] is difficult,"said Karina Shagren, "getting a two-thirds majority is going to be even more difficult."

On the other hand, John Barnes points out that legislators can approve a tax increase by a simple majority which would turn into a referendum to be approved by voters. But according to Barnes, "It's questionable whether or not there are even enough votes to get something like that out of the legislature."

Not only did voters approve I-1053 last fall, they also denied the adjusted income tax and the candy and soda tax. Lawmakers interpreted this as a clear sign that voters did not want to see further tax increases during a time of economic recession. There is word though that some legislators are discussing the potential for tax package to send to voters via referendum in the spring. At least for this special session though, lawmakers feel like their hands are tied. And that's what makes this session special: the heightened attitude among lawmakers that there are few or no alternatives to budget cuts.

Is there an alternative to across-the-board budget cuts?

That brings me to the final way this special session is different: the growing schism between what the public wants for the budget and what lawmakers feel they can actually deliver. Lawmakers were probably right to think most voters didn't want tax increases after last year's election results. But that vote was a year ago, noted Andy Nicholas policy analyst for the BPC. Now, faced with worsening economic conditions and looming budget cuts, voters may feel otherwise. In fact, 73% of Americans polled by the Daily Kos/SEIU support "the Buffet rule," or Warren Buffet's proposal to increase taxes on millionaires. Although there are no comparable polls for Washington state alone, the growing discontent is clear. Several of the large-scale protests in Washington state this year were related to the economy or budget cuts; from protests at the capitol in the spring. the Showdown at Suncadia this fall, and now local iterations of Occupy Wallstreet across the state. While Occupy Olympia/Seattle is not explicitly tied to budget cuts, the connections are hard to miss; government continuing to grant corporations tax breaks at precisely the moment when more average people are calling for an end to corporate greed.

Despite the various obstacles towards producing revenue, there are ways those roadblocks can be dismantled. People can rally around a referendum to vote on a progressive tax package that would tax big corporations and wealthy people that can afford it. Activists can continue expanding and deepening an alternative narrative to across-the-board budget cuts. They can continue voicing their discontent and educating the public about the nature of regressive and progressive tax systems. They can begin discussing what a balanced approach to the budget would actually look like. And, they can turn budget cuts from the path of least resistance into the path most resisted.

Marissa Luck is a community journalist and a writer for a local web-design firm. She recently graduated from The Evergreen State College where she studied international political economy, tutored writing, and served on the editorial collectives of the Counter Point Journal *and* Inkwell.

So why aren't lawmakers discussing revenue creation in preparation for the special session? It turns out that creating revenue is actually a lot harder than reducing spending. Washington would have to make pretty significant changes to its current tax system.

Protest the November 28 special session

(Exact time and place TBA)

On Nov. 28, the legislature will reconvene for a Special Session. The goal? To cut an additional $2 billion from the state's budget. This news comes after the legislature has already cut $10 billion from health care, education and other essential services in just the past 3 years.

On Oct. 27, Gov. Gregoire released her proposal outlining $2 billion worth of cuts. Some of the items on her list include: eliminating basic health completely, eliminating medical services within disability lifeline, ending Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Treatment Support Act programs, reducing levy equalizations that help poor school districts by 50%, and cutting 15% from higher education. The Governor's proposals are unacceptable and will have deep and lasting impacts on communities and families in the state of Washington.

In response, a powerful coalition of local community organizations, labor groups, students and faith organizations are coming together to ask our elected officials which side they're on: the side of the 99% or the side of corporations and the wealthiest. As seen across the country through the growing 99% movement, our communities will not accept another all-cuts budget. It's time for corporations and the wealthiest to pay their fair share to help fix our economy.

For more information on the Washington CAN coalition, contact Rachael DeCruz at rachaeldecruz@washingtoncan.org, or at 206-389-0050 ext. 243

Organizing for Change

Deep Democracy Action Camp - Nov 11-13

Move to Amend, Olympia

Olympia, WA--Move to Amend, Olympia will host a community forum on "Organizing for Change: Deep Democracy Action Camp" with guest trainer Riki Ott, founder of Civics Unlimited. We will review:

- how democracy is supposed to work,
- the history of corporate take-over,
- and define how you can organize to restore human rights over corporate profits.

The session will take place at the Governor Hotel in Olympia from Nov. 11 through Nov. 13 at 12:30 pm. Ott will be joined by trainer and facilitator Molly Gibbs, and student activist Corrie Radka with the UC campuses.

The recent US Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC opened the floodgates to unlimited corporate spending on elections. Dr. Riki Ott will help local activists understand the history behind 125 years of corporate abuses. Her work as a fisher ma'am in Cordova, Alaska called on her skills as a marine toxicologist, specializing in oil pollution, to spend 21 years following the Exxon-Valdez spill, fighting Exxon and state legislators.

Dr. Ott has co-founded three nonprofit organizations to deal with lingering social, economic, environmental, and judicial fallout from the spill disaster. She draws on her training and experience to educate, empower, and motivate students (4th grade through university and law) and the general public. Ott testified before Congress and the Alaska State Legislature, and received state and national recognition for her work. Her latest book is *Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* (Chelsea Green, 2008).

"Corporate Personhood" refers to court-created precedent that gives corporations constitutional rights intended solely for human beings. Riki explains, vis-à-vis what happened to the reduction in the damages owed to citizens of Cordova, how the courts overturned these compensatory and direct damages. Ultimately, the real losses are not addressed, and Exxon continues making $40 billion in net profits. She summarizes, "corporation and state must be separated by a 28th Amendment."

The forum will focus on how Puget Sound can join the national movement against Corporate Personhood, and strategically plan actions that support local needs. Go to www.MovetoAmendOlympia.org to register.

Over 1,400 people have signed a petition supporting a constitutional amendment in Olympia alone. You can sign the petition too at www.MoveToAmend.org.

The local forum will take place on Nov. 11, at 5:30. A sliding-scale fee encourages all who want to attend to register. Housing is available at a discount rate at the hotel and some housing is available at local homes. For more information call 360-412-1519, or visit http://www.movetoamendolympia.org/p/deep-democracy-registration-form.html

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 1-4 PM
First United Methodist Church
224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

Representatives from the new Olympia chapter of the senior LGBT service organization SAGE will be on hand to talk about their organization. The Olympia chapter is the first chapter of this national organization on the West Coast.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. http://www.lastwordbooks.org

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

"Around Thurston County"
Thurston County Television (TCTV)
Channel 22
Mondays, 6:30PM, Fridays, 5:00PM
(Locally produced civil affairs show with a progressive perspective).
Info: Patrickbabineau@comcast.net

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int'l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 - TCTV

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch over 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Led by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. Cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

An organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

"The Veterans Hour," locally produced by Veterans for Peace
Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9-10 pm

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a network of women committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998.
491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We have food garden! If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved. Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org 754-4085

Community Special Events

Warren McLeod vs. David Hyde Death Penalty Debate
B.R.I.C.K. Panel and Discussion
Thursday, November 3, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
South Puget Sound Community College
Building 26, Room 102

Topic: Is justice being served by the continued use of the death penalty in the US? (Event co-sponsored by the SPSCC CSI Club.)

CISPES Fall Tour 2011: Organizing in a New Era of Struggle
Friday, November 4, 12 - 1 pm
Evergreen, SEM II A3105

Friday, November 4, 7 pm
Last Word Books, 211 4th Ave E, Olympia

Cristina Cornejo, an up and coming member of the political commission of the FMLN in El Salvador and alternate for the Legislative Assembly, will be talking about the current political moment in El Salvador, what the FMLN and social movement is going to be expecting in the upcoming elections, and sadly the recent emergency in El Salvador.

Move Your Money March!
Occupy Olympia
Saturday, Nov 5, 11:30 am
Heritage Park (by Capitol Lake)

On November 5, thousands will close their accounts with the big banks and move to small community banks and credit unions.

Coffee Strong's Three Year Anniversary Party
Saturday, November 5, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
15109 Union Ave. SW, Lakewood

On November 5th of this year, Coffee Strong will have officially been open for a full three years. Three years is a big step, especially for a local non-profit. Come out and and enjoy some drinks and food and hear some accomplishments that Coffee Strong has made in this last year from staff, volunteers, veterans, and soldiers. As well as some entertainment. Also find out what we will be working on in this coming year and how you can help make that happen. Feel free to bring your family and/or friends to this event, especially if this will be their first time coming to Coffee Strong.

Third Annual: The Art of Living
Sunday, November 6 · 11:00am - 2:00 pm
The Evergreen State College
Daniel J. Evans Library

Please join us for our third annual celebration of Northwest art, culture and support of scholarships for Evergreen students!

Silent and live auctions will include original artwork in a variety of media, including work from Evergreen alumni and faculty, and art experiences. All proceeds from the event directly benefit student scholarships, and the newly renovated Evergreen Gallery.

Tickets on sale now! For more information about registration, ticket purchase, or to view items from last year's event, please visit us at http://give.evergreen.edu/artofliving/

Occupy Olympia
B.R.I.C.K. Panel and Discussion
Thursday, November 10, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
South Puget Sound Community College
Building 26, Room 102

From Wall Street to Water St-- Panel & discussion with Occupants from: Olympia, Seattle, and New York. Why occupy? What does it mean? What are the goals?

Stories of Being There When Needed
Crisis Clinic of Mason/Thurston Counties
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, November 11, 7:30 pm
Traditions Café -- 300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

Suggested donation $5-10 No one turned away.

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, November 13, 4 pm
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls addresses issues of immigration in our community. We believe immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.

Call 943-8642 for more information.

Tulip Cooperative Credit Union 2011 Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Governor Hotel
621 Capitol Way S, Olympia

Join us to:
- Learn how TULIP benefits members and the Thurston County community,
- Have a voice in the future of your credit union,
- Enjoy refreshments catered by MIJAS, and fellowship with some of the over 1,000 members!

Everyone is welcome!

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
Saturday, November 19, 11 am

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, Bridges Not Walls invites your participation in a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, which was built on a superfund toxic waste site near downtown Tacoma. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11 am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and will return to Oly by around 5pm.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000 of taxpayers' taxes each night that it's full. Prisons and detention centers are a bizarre growth industry in the US! Bring coffee and food to support families that are visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Bridges Not Walls Shelton meeting
Sunday, November 27, 4 pm
943-8642 for more information

Bridges Not Walls to meet at 4pm in downtown Shelton at the Mason County Literacy office. The carpool from Olympia will leave promptly at 3:15 pm from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol). 360-943-8642 for more information.

David Barsamian -- *Uprisings: From Kashmir to Egypt to Wall Street*
Thursday, November 10, 7:30 pm
Washington State Labor Council -- 906 Columbia St., Olympia -- Suite 330

For the past 25 years, David Barsamian has altered the independent media landscape with his weekly radio show **Alternative Radio** (which can be heard Wednesdays at 8pm on KUOW 94.9 FM). He has co-authored books with Noam Chomsky, Arundhati Roy and others. Barsamian, who was recently deported from India because of his work on Kashmir and other revolts, discusses world affairs, the state of journalism, censorship, the economic crisis, and global rebellions.

Sponsored by the Rachel Corrie Foundation, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, KUOW, and Alternative Radio. Donations at the door are welcome and appreciated. For more information, contact Becca Pilcher at 360-754-3998 or becca@rachelcorriefoundation.org.

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

November 2011

Olympia - At 4am on Sunday, Oct. 23, members of the Occupy Olympia Peace and Safety team found a 40-year old woman alone on a nearby streetcorner, underdressed for the cold morning. She had just left her home to escape an abusive relationship. She was brought to the Occupy Olympia medic tent, given warm clothes and treated for hypothermia.

Portland - Occupy Portland has opened its doors to the city's homeless population, connecting economic struggles with homelessness. Micaiah Dutt, a four-tour Iraq veteran and member of Occupy Portland's security team, said "It's about our community taking care of itself because the city, county and federal governments have neglected this population."

San Francisco, Oct. 12 - 99%ers shut down the headquarters of Wells Fargo, posting large foreclosure notices on the bank's doors.

Oakland, Oct. 26 - Police in riot gear attacked non-violent protesters attempting to return to Frank Ogawa Plaza to re-establish Occupy Oakland. Iraq War veteran Scott Olsen was shot in the face with a live tear gas cannister, fracturing his skull. An internet video showed another police officer calmly lobbing a flash grenade into a group of street medics attempting to tend to Olsen. A General Strike has been called for November 2.

Albuquerque - Local organizers with the 99% movement chose to rename their protest "(Un) Occupy Albuquerque," in recognition of Native communities which have been forcibly occupied by the United States for centuries. Organizers call for the movement to "connect corporate greed with the ongoing fight for indigenous land rights."

Iran, Oct. 22 - Iranian women gather in front of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran to show their support of anti-Wall Street demonstrations in the U.S.

Denver, Sat. Oct. 29 - Denver police raided Occupy Denver, tearing down tents in an attempt to evict the protest. 20 people were arrested in the attack, some charged with felonies. An internet video shows police inside the protest area pointing guns at protesters at point blank range, and jabbing people with batons indiscriminately. A spokesperson for Denver PD said "The officers today did a great job of showing restraint."

St. Louis - Police barricade the doors of Bank of America to prevent customers from withdrawing their money.

Albany - Local police refused to forcibly remove Occupy Albany protesters, despite being directed by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Jennings to do so. A police spokesperson said, "These people were not causing trouble. The bottom line is, the police know policing, not the governor and not the mayor."

Chicago - 300 people are arrested over two weekends at Occupy Chicago in Grant Park (the site of Obama's election night victory rally)

Greece - Thousands protest austerity cuts.

Boston, Tues. Oct. 11 - Police raided Occupy Boston at 1:30 in the morning, arresting about 100 peaceful protesters. The police arrested a marked legal observer from the National Lawyers Guild and four medics attempting to care for protesters injured in the raid. The raid came hours after thousands of people marched in solidarity with Occupy Boston.

Manhattan - Occupy Wall Street begins in Zuccotti Park on Sept. 17. Notable speakers who have attended include Cornel West, Naomi Wolf, Michael Moore, and Medea Benjamin, with musicians Tom Morello and Pete Seeger.

Sept. 24 - An internet video shows a police officer calmly pepper-spraying a group of peaceful young women who were surrounded by police netting. Another video shows the same officer pepper-spraying someone wearing a press pass. At the same event, people with videocameras are singled out and attacked by police.

Oct. 1 - 700 protesters are arrested while crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. Many protesters say they were led to believe they would be allowed to march on the roadway instead of the pedestrian crossing. The Transportation Workers Union refused to operate city buses being used as arrest buses.

London, Oct. 9 - More than 2,000 protesters occupied Westminster Bridge to protest planned cuts and privatization of the National Health Service.

South Africa - 2,000 youth protest at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Spain - 1 million people protest around the country, chanting "We are the 99%!"

Dallas, Oct. 24 - 23 participants of Occupy Dallas are arrested for blocking the entrance to Chase Bank, while other activists attempted to close their Chase accounts.

Oct. 28 - Thousands march in Tahrir Square, Cairo, in solidarity with victims of police brutality in Oakland.

Nashville - Governor Haslam has imposed a 10pm curfew on protests, and new requirements for paid permits and liability insurance. Police arrested nearly 50 protesters over two nights. The ACLU has vowed to fight the new protest restrictions. "The state knows that they cannot change the policy and selectively apply it."

Washington, D.C. - NPR dismisses independent radio journalist Lisa Simeone after attending Occupy protest on her own time.

Rome, Oct. 15 - 200,000 protest austerity cuts.